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XXXVIII. PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE, *&c.* *By Dr.* DICKSON. [*Concluded.*]

THE ſubject of the fifth and laſt ſection of the firſt part, is the "*Conſtruction of Roads.*" The various advantages of good roads, the circumſtances to be attended to in their direction, their different forms, the objects generally aimed at in all theſe forms, the application of certain principles to, and the different circumſtances to be attended to, in their conſtruction, are diſcuſſed at large; together with the methods of making them in ſandy, clayey, and boggy ſoils, and on hill ſides; followed by the modes of conſtruction and advantages, of iron rail roads.—The ſection is cloſed with a few conſiderations on the methods of repairing roads at preſent in practice, and on the utility or injury of certain forms of wheels to roads in general.

The plates are—35. Shewing the manner of forming convex and concave roads.—36. Plans for roads on clayey ſoils, and on hill ſides.—37. Implements for repairing them, including a roller, an inſtrument for levelling, and a ſledge harrow for filling up their inequalities.

The ſixth ſection is employed on *Soils*, including ſubſoils; under the general heads, Clayey, Loamy, Chalky, Sandy, Gravelly, and Peaty or Moſſy, with a few obſervations on Vegetable Earth or Soil. Before proceeding to enter at large into any of the heads ſeparately, the author gives a few obſervations on Soils and Subſoils in general; and in treating on thoſe above named, his principal attention is directed to their compoſition, variations, and comparative fertility or barrenneſs; with the remedies to be applied to each particular kind, with a view to their improvement. The ſection is cloſed with an account of the nature, formation, and the means of improvement of vegetable earth, in which he recommends a variety of ſubſtances in common uſe; but, it neceſſarily follows, in this as well as all other general ſyſtems, that the ſtudent is left to his own obſervation for the practical application. Under the general head *Manures*, which is the ſubject of the ſeventh ſection, and which we apprehend to be our author's *forte*, we have an extended account of the various circumſtances to be attended to, in the management of this important branch of agriculture. The various heads are, Manures from the decompoſition of Animal Subſtances; including hard and ſoft animal ſubſtances, and dungs.—Manures from the decompoſition of Vegetable Subſtances; including ſea weed, tanners' bark, mud from various places, malt duſt, refuſe of oil cake, &c. Manures from the agency and decompoſition of Foſſil Subſtances; theſe are, lime, limeſtone, chalk, marle, ſea ſand, and common ſand. Manures from the agency and decompoſition of Saline Subſtances:

this head includes bleachers and ſoap-boilers' refuſe, vegetable, peat, and coal aſhes, ſoot, and ſea ſalt. Manures from the combination of different ſubſtances, which are principally the farm-yard compoſt, mixed with ſaline or foſſil ſubſtances, are often peculiarly advantageous. The next head is Means of augmenting and preſerving Manures: and the ſection is cloſed with the general Application of Manures.

The ſubject of the eighth ſection is *Drainage of Land;* in which, after ſome general remarks on the drainage of land in various ſituations, the author proceeds to treat on that of the various kinds of ſoils. The methods of draining boggy lands, details the various circumſtances to be attended to in proceeding to effect it; with the means of accompliſhing it, and the kinds of drains neceſſary to be reſorted to in different caſes. The methods of draining hilly lands are few and ſimple, but require ſome attention to their proper adaptation. Few drains, and thoſe horizontal ones, are neceſſary in draining mixed ſoils. The next head is on the Method of Draining retentive Soils; followed by the modes of draining mines, quarries, and pits, and a few obſervations on draining in general cloſe the ſection.

The plates to it are—39. Drainage of Boggy Lands from Springs.—40. Drainage of Boggy and Wet Lands.—41. Drainage of low Swampy Lands.——42. Drainage of Hilly Lands and Mixed Soils.—43. Drainage of Lands porous above, and retentive below.—44. Drainage in various Kinds of Soil.—45. Drainage of Mines, Quarries, and Pits.—46. Drainage of Wetneſs, cauſed by Mineral Strata.—47. Mr. Lambert's Mole-Plough.—48. Sections of covered Drains, with Draining Implements.—49. Draining Bricks; and we perhaps ought to refer plate 38, Embankments, to this ſection.

The ninth ſection is on *Paring* and *Burning*, in which the ſubject is chemically and practically examined, with a view to the different intentions for, and ſituations in, which it ought to be employed. There have been a variety of opinions as to the extent to which this operation ought to be applied; but practice ſeems to ſay, that it will generally be injurious in moſt ſoils, excepting ſuch as have been long laid in graſs, and which produce a ſoft ſpringy (to the tread) kind of turf, which is ſeldom found but in moiſtiſh, ill drained ground; and the graſs which compoſed it is probably Bent, or other graſſes which thrive in, or are natives of wet land. The plate attached to this ſection is—50, containing a Paring Plough for rough land.

The ſubject of the tenth ſection is "*Fallowing of Land;*" a mode of culture about which there has been much diſpute; ſome aſſerting it to be abſolutely unneceſſary in any caſe, whilſt others are as ſtrenuous in its favour. Practice, however, which ſo often overturns the mazings of theory, takes a middle path, and thinks the operation neceſſary in ſtrong ſoils, whilſt in light ones, of certain kinds, ſhe deems it unneceſſary. The author ſpeaks favourably of ſome kinds of green crops, as ſubſtitutes for this operation: he alſo diſplays ſome chemical knowledge in his treatment of ſoils, with a view to improving their mellowneſs, and pulveriſation.

The *Cultivation of Arable Land*, which is the ſubject of the eleventh ſection, occupies 500 pages, or rather more than a third of the whole work. It is treated on with regard to thoſe lands which have not been under the dominion of the plough, and to ſuch as have been in a ſtate of tillage. In treating on the firſt kind, the author commences with the preparatory operations neceſſary to fit it for the plough, which conſiſt in removing the various obſtructions to ploughing; ſuch as

stones, wood, heath, rushes, and other coarse plants, ant and mole-hills, and the management of mossy soils. He next proceeds with the formation of Ridges, Ploughing, Harrowing, Rolling, Manuring, Ploughing in Green Crops, Sheep-folding, Warping, Hoeing, Weeding; and offers a few considerations on the Rotation of Crops, which includes observations on all the variety of crops in common use.

The plates of machinery and plans to this section are—51. Hand Hoes. —52. A useful Horse Hoe.—53. A variety of Plans for the proper conducting of Horse-hoeing.—Plate 2, vol. 2d, A Bean Drill.—3. Potatoe Harrow.—4. Turnip Slicers.

Nearly one hundred pages of the latter part of this section are occupied solely with the cultivation of the natural and artificial Grasses, a subject well worth serious attention: the remarks which it contains are not remarkably profound, but they will be of great use to the practical farmer; particularly when he possesses discrimination and experience. The observations on the grasses are accompanied by coloured plates of several of the principal ones, which will enable the practical farmer to distinguish them without difficulty.

The plates are—5. Sweet scented Vernal Grass, (*Anthoxanthum Odoratum.*)—6. Meadow Foxtail Grass, (*Alopecurus Pratenis.*)—7. Smooth stalked Meadow Grass, (*Poa Pratensis.*)—8. Rough stalked Meadow Grass, (*Poa Trivialis.*)—9. Meadow Fescue Grass, (*Festuca Pratensis.*)—10. Sheep's Fescue Grass, (*Festuca Ovina.*)—11. Hard Fescue Grass, (*Festuca Duriuscula.*)—12. Crested Dog's tail Grass, (*Cynosurus Cristatus.*)—13. Common Ray or Rye Grass, (*Lolium Perenne.*)—14. Rough Cock's-foot Grass, (*Dactylus Glomeratus.*)—15. Dutch or White Clover, (*Trifolium Repens.*)—16. Trefoil, or Black Nonsuch, (*Medicago Lupulina.*)—17. Bird's-foot Trefoil, (*Lotus Corniculatus.*)—18. Red Clover, (*Trifolium Pratense.*) —19. Saint-foin, (*Hedysarum Onobrychis.*)—And 20. Lucern, (*Medicago Sativa.*)

We cannot leave this section without mentioning the usefulness of treatises on the natural and artificial grasses, when well written. This part of Doctor D.'s book will be found deserving the notice of the practical farmer, in as far as it will supply numerous hints, which will be all that is either looked for, or is necessary to the intelligent and judicious mind.

The *Cultivation of Grass Land* forms the subject of the twelfth section, and it is treated on at some length. The principal heads of it are—Manuring, Watered Meadows, Warping, (an invaluable practice when applicable), Mowing, Hay-making, After-grass, Pasture Lands, Drinking-Ponds, Cow-keeping, Dairying, Grazing, Soiling, and Stall-feeding, House-Lamb Suckling, Planting; and the section is closed with a few general considerations on Woods.

The plates are—21. Two Plans for the conducting of Irrigation.—22. Three Plans for the same purpose.—And 23. Four more of the same kind for different situations.

The thirteenth and last section is on the important subject of *Live Stock*. After many general remarks, the author proceeds to consider each sort particularly, under the several heads—Neat Cattle, Sheep, Shearing Sheep, Horses, Swine, Rabbits, Poultry, Water Fowl, Pigeons, Bees, and Fish. The consideration of the diseases of the nobler cattle is subjoined under its proper subject.

The plates, which are coloured, are—1. The Herefordshire Bull.—24. The Suffex Bull.—25. Suffex Oxen.—26. A Working Hereford Ox.—27. Dishley Ram.—28. Dishley Ewe.—29. South Down Ram.—

30. Ditto Ewe.—31. The Suffolk Punch Horſe.—32. Old and improved Cart-Horſes.—33. Swine of the Chineſe prick-ear mixed, and Berkſhire mixed breeds.—And 34. Machine for weighing Live Stock.

The work is cloſed with an appendix, containing a compendious view of the principal laws relating to agriculture; and is terminated by an index of the principal ſubjects treated on in the work.

During our ſurvey of this elaborate work, with which we have in the main been much pleaſed, we have often been confirmed in the opinion advanced in our introduction to this review, viz. that "we much doubt whether any ſingle perſon in this kingdom poſſeſſes ſufficient knowledge to write, or to ſelect materials for, and to compile a ſyſtem of agriculture, which ſhall be of univerſal application, and ſeldom fail when reduced to practice." We now add, that we think the formation of a ſyſtem of univerſal application and uſe to be impoſſible, independently of the want of proper materials, ſo long as the preſent methods of acquiring and diffuſing agricultural knowledge ſhall be in uſe, in as far as we judge the modes employed to be inadequate to the deſired end; and our opinion is confirmed from a ſurvey of the operations of a certain board, about which we have heard ſo much with ſo little ſatisfaction.—Would not the beſt way of ſeeking real knowledge on the ſubject be, to form a kind of free and eaſy ſociety of practical farmers, who ſhould be bound to little elſe, than to communicate the plan which each purſues on his own farm, his judgment being merely directed by a few ſimple principles, or inquiries, drawn up with a view to the object of the ſociety? A ſociety on a plan ſomething like this, with a few intelligent men at its head, to reduce the communications to a few reſults, would, if the members were vigilant and induſtrious, quickly teach us what *is done*, and would, probably, in a little time, inſtruct us in what *ought to be done*. For, we contend, till the knowledge already poſſeſſed by farmers, be properly aſcertained, we cannot expect much new information on the ſubject. Till the foundation be laid, and proper materials be collected, we expect no excellence of ſuperſtructure; and, ſo long as our heads of ſocieties ſhall, Turkiſh bricklayer like, ſit on ſophas to their work, we only expect the building to advance ſlowly towards completion.

In the introduction to our account of this work, we haſtily glanced at the principal obſtructions to the advancement of agriculture, which, though curſorily ſtated, we believe to have their weight: before we take leave of the ſubject, we are tempted to beſtow a little attention on what is uſually denominated the monopoly of farms, on which there has been much ſaid, with little practical knowledge of the ſubject.

Before proceeding farther, it will probably be uſeful to aſcertain the extent of a large farm and of a ſmall one, the want of ſuch diſtinction confuſedly echoed from ear to ear, and from newſpaper to newſpaper, having been the cauſe of that indeterminate buzz, with which we have been ſo much annoyed of late. We apprehend, and our opinion is drawn from obſervation, that the proper ſize for a farm, chiefly employed in tillage, will generally be about four hundred acres, whilſt one for grazing ought to contain a thouſand; conſequently, ſix hundred acres for the one, and fifteen for the other, may be eſtimated as large farms. And where, we would aſk, are farms much larger than theſe to be found, except in diſtricts ſimilar to the fens in Lincolnſhire, or in unproductive lands in other ſituations? Farms, of the ſize we have mentioned, we contend to be beſt adapted to the advantage of the farmer, and of the

country at large; in as far as the farmer can ſuperintend them without effort, and if the ſoil be tolerable, it will yield ſufficient profit to enable him to manage with ſpirit and effect; whilſt the half ſtarved tenant of a farm, of ſeventy or one hundred acres, can neither manage or live; exiſtence for himſelf and family being all he can acquire, and the tillage of his land, with all his labour, muſt generally be neglected from mere want of produce, to purchaſe proper manure, independently of his generally greater ignorance.

Were we to deſcend to the minutiæ of this extenſive ſubject, we ſhould treſpaſs too much on the limits of our publication; we ſhall, therefore, only add, that the daily labourer is a happy man compared with the ſmall farmer; the former generally living better, and working leſs, than the latter, with this advantage, that his mind is free from anxiety; and to this we may add, that the country is benefited by the proportionate increaſe in the production of the great farm, conſequent on the richneſs of the farmer, whilſt it is a material loſer by the unproductiveneſs of the ſmall one, an unproductiveneſs inſeparable from the feebleneſs of management, conſequent to the poverty of its ſuperintendant. We conclude our remarks on this ſubject, with giving it as our opinion, that the country at large is, in general, benefitted by large rather than ſmall farms; and that enormous farms are ſolely hurtful from the want of a proper ſuperintendance in the farmer. The ſame number of men muſt be employed on them as would be neceſſary for the cultivation of the ſame ground, were it divided into middling or proper ſized farms; whilſt the produce would be leſs from want of proper ſuperintendance, labourers being well known to idle when their maſters are not active, and land to refuſe large produce where not well tilled.

If men, in low ſituations, who generally, and for obvious reaſons, undertake ſmall farms, would employ the little money they moſtly poſſeſs, in managing from ſix to ten or fifteen acres of rich land, in the way recommended in ſeveral periodical publications, *viz.* that of cottage gardening; a brilliant and ſucceſsful example of which is given by Sir Henry Vavaſour, about three years ago, in one of the Agricultural Magazines, they would not only become eaſy and content in their circumſtances, but the quantity of produce which they would raiſe, from not having their hands too full of employ, would be a real advantage to their country. Every induſtrious labourer would have an intereſt in the ſoil; he would have a little time to ſpare for recreation; and ſhould the enemies of his country dare hoſtilely to approach our ſhores, they would probably have reaſon, quickly, to repent their temerity. How much better would it be for the intereſts of mankind, would their rulers ſtrive to ameliorate their condition, rather than to carry devaſtation over the globe, for the gratification of their dire ambition! For ſuch times, however, we are not reſerved, but they may be in ſtore for our children's children, who will probably repoſe under their own vine, and their own fig-tree, ſecure and happy. C.

XXXIX. *The present* State *of* Peru; *comprising its Geography, Topography, Natural History, Mineralogy, Commerce, the Customs and Manners of its Inhabitants, the State of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts; and the modern Travels of the Missionaries in the heretofore unexplored Mountainous Territories, &c. &c. The Whole drawn from Original and Authentic Documents, chiefly written and compiled in the Peruvian Capital.* 4*to. pp.* 486. 2*l.* 2*s.* 1805. Phillips.

THE difficulty of acquiring genuine information on the natural hiſtory, manners, and literature of South America, are ſo well known, as to afford little doubt but a work, profeſſing to treat largely on the various branches of theſe ſubjects, muſt be well received; particularly when it originates in ſources generally authentic and reſpectable, as the "Preſent ſtate of Peru."

"By one of theſe caſualties," ſays the author,* "(if this term can be applied to events ariſing from the preponderance of a formidable marine, and from an heroic ardour, carrying it with a reſiſtleſs force), by which Great Britain has appropriated to herſelf, in her different conteſts with Spain, ſo great a ſhare of the colonial treaſures belonging to the latter nation, ſeveral volumes of a periodical work, printed at Lima, and richly ſtored with intellectual treaſures, fell into the hands of the preſent editor.† The few ſpecimens of their contents, which he was enabled to give at the time,‡ on the eve of his being called away by his public duty, were favourably received: they indeed excited among men of letters a degree of ſurprize, which demanded the evidence of the originals to atteſt their authenticity. It was ſuppoſed that ſome new Pſalmanazar, or another Damberger, of ſtill more recent notoriety in literary impoſture, had conceived and digeſted the plan of obtruding on the public credulity theſe ſcientific ſketches, purporting to be from a part of the globe, where not any degree of ſcience could reſonably be ſuppoſed to exiſt."

The writer of this article recollects, that his own impreſſions, as to the authenticity of the communications alluded to, were exactly ſimilar to thoſe expreſſed by the author; he could hardly ſuſpect the exiſtence of literature ſo reſpectable, as that manifeſted in the Peruvian Mercury, originating, as it neceſſarily muſt have done, under diſadvantages, the reſult of deſpotiſm and bigotry perſonified. "An Academical Society, eſtabliſhed in the capital of Peru, the members of which, in treating the diverſified ſubjects of literature, philoſophy, hiſtory, &c. diſplayed a profound knowledge of ancient and modern learning, was a novelty as welcome as it was unexpected.—Whether that ſociety ſtill exiſts in Lima, is uncertain; but it appears that the Peruvian Mercury, after having been progreſſively ſubjected to a variety of reſtraints, was diſcontinued ſomewhere about the year 1796. On the following year its learned editor, Don Jacinto Calero y Moreira, paſſed from Lima to Buenos Ayres." From the communications of the members of this ſociety, the Peruvian Mercury was, with the addition of various local matters, conſtructed; and from the reſult of their labours, and other authentic ſources, the preſent editor has compiled his work, againſt which we have only to object the ſize and price of his volume, and to regret that he did not rigidly confine himſelf to the Peruvian Mercury, as it would have derived reſpectability from ſuch a circumſtance, which it cannot poſſeſs after the editor's declaration.

The work is divided into eight parts; the ſubjects of which are—1. The Peruvian Territory.—2. Its Natural Hiſtory.—3. Mineralogy.—4. Commerce.—5. The Peruvian Capital.—6. The Indian and other Inhabitants of Peru.—7. Its Topography.—8. Miſcellaneous Subjects of Literature and Philoſophy. An appendix is adjoined, which contains accounts of various miſſions into the interior of the country within the laſt twenty years. The whole is illuſtrated by a ſeries of coloured engravings,

* The capture of the Spaniſh regiſter ſhip, St. Jago, bound from Callas to Cadiz in 1793.

† Joſeph Skinner, Eſq.

‡ Through the medium of the Monthly Magazine, in 1797, and the commencement of 1798.

moſtly of the coſtume of its inhabitants, which are taken from an original painting, by an untutored native artiſt, of a grand Indian feſtival, held in the ſquare of Lima, in honour of the acceſſion of his preſent Catholic Majeſty, Charles the Fourth, to the throne.

The firſt part gives a general idea of Peru, with an account of the veſtiges of its ancient monuments, and its phyſical geography. The general idea of the country contains a brief ſketch of its extent and appearance, its population, rural operations, commerce, manufactures, mines, navigation, fiſheries, agriculture, natural hiſtory, and preſent ſtate of its literature. The veſtiges of the monuments of ancient Peru are its ſepulchres, obeliſks, ſtatues, ruined edifices, public roads, large apertures in the ſides of mountains, aqueducts, writing, ſciences, and the government of the Yncas. The phyſical geography is principally directed to the grander appearances of the face of the country, exhibited in its ſtupendous mountains. This part is cloſed with a few queries on the phenomena of the climate, with the anſwers to them, given by a learned Peruvian reſiding in the Britiſh capital.

The ſecond part, which is on the natural hiſtory of Peru, contains an hiſtorical ſketch of the preſent ſtate of botanical ſcience in that country, which, though not profound, will be read with pleaſure by the lovers of this faſcinating ſcience: it contains a rapid ſketch of what has been done by the Spaniards towards obtaining a knowledge of the productions of Peru. The remarks on Zoology are ſhort, being merely confined to a brief account of the Llama, or Peruvian ſheep, with a plate. This part is cloſed with an account of two Peruvian giants, Pedro Cano, and Baſilio Huaylas; of the latter of whom there is a plate.

The ſubject of the third part is Mineralogy; and in it we find an enumeration of the mines of different metals in the viceroyalty of Peru; an hiſtorical and topographical deſcription of the mountainous territory of Lauri-cocha, vulgarly denominated Paſco; an account of the quickſilver mine of Huancavelica; and a ſtatement of the condition of the miners in Peru. This part is accompanied with a plate, repreſenting an overſeer of a Royal Peruvian mine on horſeback.

The fourth part is employed on the conſideration of the commerce of Peru, in which it is treated on hiſtorically and politically, under the ſeparate ſections of the productions and commodities of the viceroyalty of Peru, for its internal circulation, and commerce of exportation; its external commerce or importation; the cauſes of its decline, and the remedies which may be applied for its re-eſtabliſhment, the laſt of which does not appear, having been ſuppreſſed by the chief magiſtrate of Peru. The ſubject of commerce is treated on at ſome length, and conveys ſome valuable information.

The Peruvian capital forms the ſubject of the fifth part, which occupies above one hundred pages. It commences with hiſtorical and political reflections on the population of Lima, which includes ſeveral tables, containing ſtatements of the number of the various claſſes of its inhabitants. The next ſubject is the erection and eſtabliſhment of the royal audience, or high court of juſtice in that city, rendered neceſſary by the rapacity and ambition of the conquerors. After diſmiſſing this, the author proceeds with a hiſtory of the foundation, progreſs, and preſent ſtate of the royal Univerſity of St. Mark, of Lima, which was eſtabliſhed in 1553. The benevolent eſtabliſhments are, a college for male and another for female orphans; the monaſtery and hoſpital of chari-

ty; a general hoſpital for the poor, and an aſylum for repentant females, with others of leſs note; beſides eccleſiaſtical and public buildings of different ſorts. The deſcription of the great ſquare of Lima, which follows, will give ſome idea of the magnificence of that part of the world. The account of the public diverſions, includes its theatre, coffee-houſes, cock-matches, tennis-court, bull-feaſts, aſſemblages of company on the banks of the Amancaes river, the promenade, and the walk of La Piedra Liſa. That of the cuſtoms and manners of the people of Lima, contains many remarks on theſe topics, given in the Mercury, in an allegorical dreſs, entitled "An Hiſtorical Apologue on the Corruption of the Roman Colonies in Africa:" it is of courſe a little inclined to the ſide of ſatire. This diviſion contains ſome other intereſting papers on that head, from the Peruvian Mercury; and is embelliſhed with ſeveral coloured plates of the coſtume of its inhabitants.

The ſixth part, on the Indian and other inhabitants of Peru, contains an eſſay on the falſe religion and ſuperſtitious cuſtoms of the Peruvian Indians; an account of the cuſtoms, ſuperſtitions, and exerciſes of the Indians of the Pampa del Sacramento, and Andes mountains of Peru; and concludes with an account of the public congregations of the negroes reſiding in the diſtrict of Lima: it is alſo accompanied with ſeveral plates of coſtume.

The ſeventh, on the Topography of Peru, contains an hiſtorical and geographical deſcription of the province of Chichas y Tariga, in the Cordilleras; a plan for gaining acceſs to and peopling the Andes mountains, of the province of Guamalies propoſed and ſet on foot by Don Juan de Bezares: an intereſting and entertaining diſſertation; and an account of the repopulation of the valley of Vitoc, in the Andes, belonging to the intendancy of Tarma.—This account redounds highly to the honour of Don Juan Maria de Galves, intendant of that province. How much are we led to deplore the depopulating and waſting ſpirit of ambitious rulers, when we reflect on the benevolent exertions of men, ſuch as Don Galves! The royal ſchedule, commendatory of the zeal and activity of this miniſter, in the repopulation of this diſtrict, was dated at Madrid, in March, 1790.

The laſt, and one of the moſt intereſting parts of the work, is on ſeveral miſcellaneous ſubjects of literature and philoſophy. Who would have been led to expect the appearance of ſuch intereſting diſſertations, from a country where our ignorance led us to ſuppoſe the exiſtence of literature impoſſible, for many reaſons. In reality, the exertions of the Peruvian inhabitants ſeem far to outſtrip thoſe of the mother country; and an enlightened and liberal policy ſeems alone to be wanting to give them a reſpectable appearance in many points of view.

The firſt diviſion of this part contains a ſhort account of its periodical works; which includes notices on the Peruvian Mercury (*El Mercurio Peruano*); the Economical Diary (*Diario Economico*); the Weekly Critic (*Semanario Critico*); and a weekly journal, entitled the Periodical Paper of Santa Fé de Bogota.—Quito contains a patriotic ſociety, denominated the School of Concord, inſtituted in 1789; and a periodical work, publiſhed once a fortnight, and edited by the ſecretary of that ſociety; it is denominated "The firſt Fruits of the Culture of Quito." The ſecond diviſion of this part relates to the political economy of Peru, and is an intereſting article. The third, on Biography, will be read with ſome intereſt, in conſequence of the biographical ſketches of the eminent characters of Peru, which it contains. The fourth, on

Longevity, is ſhort; and the fifth, on Meteorology, contains, beſides ſome intereſting remarks, a table of meteorological obſervations made in the city of Lima, at mid-day, in the open air, and in the ſhade, from January, 1791, to March 1792, inclusive. This part is alſo accompanied by ſeveral plates of coſtume.

The appendix contains five articles, on the miſſions into the interior of Peru. The firſt is a hiſtory of the miſſions of Caxamarquilla, with the origin and loſs of Manoa; intended as an introduction to the recent travels of Fathers Sobreviela and Girbal, in the remote parts of Peru; the ſecond is the peregrination by the river Huallaga, to the lake of Gran Cocama, undertaken by Father Manuel Sobreviela, in the year 1790; the third is a peregrination by the rivers Maranon and Ucayali, to the tribes of Manoa, undertaken by the Apoſtolical Father Friar NarciſoGirbal y Barcelo, in the year 1791; the fourth contains intereſting notices relative to the entrances made by the monks of the order of St. Francis, into the mountainous territories of Peru, from each of the parts bordering on the cordillera of the Andes, communicated to the Academical Society of Lima, by Father Sobreviela, Guardian of the College of Santa Roſa of Ocopa. This treatiſe points out the routes to be purſued by future miſſionaries to theſe countries; from which circumſtance, it is ſufficiently obvious, that theſe are both difficult of acceſs, and little known. The laſt paper in the appendix, contains the Itinerary from Chavin to Chicoplaya. The authors of the Peruvian Mercury, ſpeaking of the notices of Father Sobreviela, obſerve, that when combined with what has already been given on the ſame ſubject (and which we preſume to be all tranſlated here, though the editor has left us in the dark in that reſpect,) they form a brief, but exact hiſtory, original in all its parts.

We have been thus minute in preſenting our readers with the heads of every ſubject of the "Preſent State of Peru," for the purpoſe of enabling them to judge of the ſcope of its contents, which are generally new. We regret the author's not having rigidly confined himſelf to the Peruvian Mercury; it would have given a reſpectability to his work, imperiouſly demanded for the removal of the ſuſpicions of European literati, with reſpect to the ſcientific productions of South America: another reaſon might have operated on the author, towards producing ſuch a determination, *viz.* that great ſuſpicions can alone be done away by great and lucid evidence. However, the work is well worth the notice of both the general and the ſcientific reader, and may be deemed an acquiſition to the natural and geographical hiſtory of the globe. K.

XL. *An* Analytical Inquiry *into the* Principles *of* Taste. *By* Richard Payne Knight. 8*vo. pp.* 470. 8*s.* 6*d. boards.* 1805. White.

WHEN we reflect on the varied organization, and the conſequent variations in the intellect of man; and to thoſe reflections ariſing from ſuch conſiderations, if we add others, on the difficulty of acquiring ideas, in uniſon, in every particular, with the perceptions, feelings, and modes of thinking of every individual; conjoined to the ſcarcity of men who think at all; or, at any rate, who employ their thoughts on abſtract reaſonings: we ſhall be little ſurpriſed, that the principles of taſte ſhould be ſo imperfectly known, or ſo little underſtood as they are actually found to be at this time.—Again, if we ſuperadd others, on the

readineſs with which mankind give way to their feelings in matters of this ſort, without the leaſt reaſoning on the buſineſs; we ſhall ſtill more be convinced, that it muſt require accuracy of thought to diſtinguiſh the qualities of things as they actually exiſt; and when thus diſtinguiſhed, to arrange them conſonantly with the order of nature.

The various works on this ſubject, which have heretofore made their appearance, ſeem to have done little more than to amaſs materials for ſuperſtructure; whilſt the plans by which they were arranged, and built up, appear only to have bewildered the architect, and to have prevented him from aſcertaining the preciſe qualities of thoſe materials; in as far as a man may travel long and laboriouſly in a wrong path, and expedition will only lead him farther from the object of his ſearch. Mr. Knight, however, has at length found the right plan, as to the general arrangement of his materials, and ſhould they not all be found of ſterling value, or properly ſhaped, yet they will commonly be found to poſſeſs both thoſe qualifications. The varying taſtes, and ill-formed or unpreciſe judgments of his readers, may often lead them to diſſent from him, and poſſibly to contradict him; but much thought and diſcrimination will be required, to enable any one to attack him with ſucceſs; to overturn his theory, will perhaps require more than all the ſtrength of all thoſe who may be inclined to oppoſe him.

Mr. Knight commences his work with an introduction, containing a ſceptical view of the ſubject in its principles; in building, furniture, gardening, and dreſs; in imitative arts, in ſtyle, and in the productions of nature. The obſervations on theſe ſubjects are followed by conſiderations on the word beauty, as applied to ſenſible and intellectual qualities; the variations in its meaning as to the ſexes in mankind. After refuting an opinion of Mr. Hume, that beauty is only reſident in the mind, which is only ſupported by ſophiſtical arguments; and illuſtrating his own opinion by oppoſite examples, drawn from taſtes, and the ſexual taſtes of brutes; the author concludes the introduction with the following paragraph:—

"The ſenſe of taſte is equally impartial; being equally unconnected with, and uninfluenced by, the higher faculties of the mind: it is alſo the firſt that is employed in preſerving life by ſelecting nouriſhment; and that which hath conſequently given a name to that rule or criterion of juſt exertion in all the reſt, which is the ſubject of the preſent inquiry: wherefore, I ſhall examine it firſt; and, after comparing it with thoſe of its two kindred organs of ſmell and touch, in order to aſcertain the principles of ſenſation in general, proceed to the examination of the remaining two, whoſe objects are the proper objects of taſte in the more general ſenſe of the word, as uſed to ſignify a general diſcriminative faculty ariſing from juſt feeling and correct judgment, implanted in the mind of man by his Creator, and improved by exerciſe, ſtudy, and meditation."

The author divides his work into three parts; the firſt is on Senſation; the ſecond, on the Aſſociation of Ideas; and the third, is on the paſſions.

The firſt part contains five chapters, which treat on each of the ſenſes in the following order—Taſte, Smell, Touch, Hearing, and Sight. The ſecond, contains three; the ſubjects of which, in the order they ſtand, are—Knowledge, or improved Perception; Imagination; and Judgment. The third part alſo contains three chapters; the firſt, on the Sublime and Pathetic; the ſecond, is on the Ridiculous; and the third, on Novelty.

In treating on the ſenſe of *Taste*, which forms the ſubject of the firſt chapter of the firſt part, the au-

thor conſiders it, with reference to its organs, its being either a primary or ſimple ſenſation; its variations; its irritations; its effects in different individuals; the effect of mixed flavours; vitiated and morbid palates; the pleaſures and habits of theſe palates; the reaſons of their becoming fixed and indiſpenſable; and a few conſiderations on the effects of intoxicating qualities, cloſe the chapter.

The ſecond chapter treats on the ſenſe of *Smell*, with reference to its organs, their modification; its connection with mental ſympathies in brutes, which is illuſtrated with the caſe of dogs following game, and oxen bellowing at blood. The author refutes a miſtake of Mr. Burke, on *ſublime ſtinks*; and cloſes the ſection with an illuſtration of the power of ſmell, in the ſexual ſympathies of brutes.

The third chapter is on Simple Feeling, or *Touch*, which is conſidered with reſpect to its modes and limits. The author's poſition, that the gratification of ſimple touch, independent of ſexual communications, is confined principally to heat and cold, is illuſtrated by a few conſiderations on ſmoothneſs, ſexual ſympathies, irritation, and titillation, which he conſiders ſeparately. After confirming a poſition of Sir Joſhua Reynolds, with reſpect to the ſenſations of beauty, poſſeſſed by a man born blind, on newly recovering his ſight, which is illuſtrated with a few conſiderations on internal ſtimuli in man, and external ſtimuli in plants; with their ſenſation and organic ſenſations in general. Mr. Knight draws this concluſion, that ſenſations have no reſemblance to ideas, nor ideas to the objects which excite them; and brings the evidence of ſenſe in ſupport of his opinion. We preſent our readers with the tenth paragraph on the ſubject of ſcepticiſm.

"When men once renounce the evidence of their ſenſes, either in believing or doubting, there is nothing which they may not believe or doubt with perfect conſiſtency. If we can once perſuade ourſelves that, becauſe ideas have no reſemblance to their material objects, they may have ariſen in the mind without them, we may certainly believe or diſbelieve the exiſtence of thoſe material objects as we pleaſe; for our feelings and perceptions are certainly internal; nor can we at all tell how they are connected with any thing external; the mode of conveyance, between the organs of ſenſe and thoſe of perception, being beyond the reach of human diſcovery. That there is ſome mode of coveyance the conſtant recurrence of particular aſſociations proves to the ſatisfaction of ordinary men: but if learned philoſophers chooſe to doubt it, becauſe it is not demonſtrable, they muſt doubt on. Scepticiſm has never attempted to make proſelytes by fire or ſword; and is therefore, at leaſt, an innocent abſurdity compared with its antagoniſt bigotry."

The author goes on to confirm his opinion, as follows, by a proper diſtinction:—

"All its wandering clouds of confuſion, and perplexity ſeem to have ariſen from employing the Greek word *idea*, ſometimes in its proper ſenſe, to ſignify a mental image or viſion, and ſometimes in others the moſt adverſe and remote, to ſignify *perception*, *remembrance*, *notion*, *knowledge*, and almoſt every other operation, or reſult of operation, of which mind is capable. Of motion, for inſtance, in a particular object, we have a *perception* when we ſee or feel it move, and a *remembrance* afterwards; but of the motion of the earth, either on its axis or in its orbit, we have neither *perception* nor *remembrance*, but only a *notion*, acquired by comparative deductions from other perceptions: while, of motion in general, we have no particular *perception*, *remembrance*, or *notion*; but only *general knowledge* collected and abſtracted from all. Of neither, however, have we any *idea*, if by idea be meant

mental image or *reſemblance*: but, nevertheleſs, to infer from thence that we have no adequate *perception*, *remembrance*, *notion*, or *knowledge* either of *motion* or *body*, ſeems as adverſe to ſound philoſophy as to common ſenſe; there being no more reaſon why a *notion* ſhould reſemble a *perception*; a *perception*, a *ſenſation*, or a *ſenſation* its *object*, than that an *exertion* ſhould reſemble an *arm*; an *arm*, a *lever*; or a *lever*, a *weight*; nor is it leſs abſurd to make the want of reſemblance between the cauſe, the means, and the end, a ground for doubting the reality of either, in the one caſe, than in the other. I could therefore wiſh to drop or modify the uſe of the word *idea*; but it has become too general and eſtabliſhed for an individual to attempt it; and I have only to entreat the reader to keep theſe diſtinctions in his mind, and apply them occaſionally."

This chapter is cloſed with the pleaſures of the ſenſe of touch, ariſing from what he calls an inverted action of the nerves; or in other words from the gradual (not ſudden) ceſſation from action.

The fourth chapter on *Hearing*, commences with a general account of the organs of this ſenſe, with a view to, and their modes of action; of ſound, and the probable means of its conveyance; its nature and cauſes; and its effects, modes, and degrees of irritation. The effects of ſimple and mixed tones are next conſidered, they are demonſtrated to be connected with mental ſympathies, in man and animals; and they are farther illuſtrated by the objects of the higher kinds of muſic and poetry on man. The author proceeds with the effects of verſification on the ſenſe of hearing; and the chapter is concluded with a few obſervations on the diſtance and direction of ſound, their grandeur and ſublimity.

The chapter commences on ſight which being the ſenſe moſt in reference with taſte is conſidered with its cauſes and primary effects on the retina, followed by an account of the manner in which we acquire an idea of the magnitude, diſtance, and projection of bodies. The author next endeavours to refute a poſition advanced by Mr. Burke, with reſpect to objects of large dimenſions producing the ſublime; but we think Mr. B. only to be incorrect, and that Mr. Knight has rather miſtaken his meaning. The pains and pleaſures of uniſon depend on the modes and degrees of imitation experienced by the eye. Colours are not ſufficiently powerful to excite pain unleſs highly concentrated; but nature guards againſt this, by ſcarcely permitting any thing to be of one colour; as is evidenced by the various gradations of tints obſervable even in a white pink, which ariſe from the different reflections, and conſequently various ſhades of its different ſurfaces. Mr. Knight goes on, to illuſtrate his ideas, principally in oppoſition to Mr. Burke's theory of the beauty of ſmoothneſs on the pains and pleaſures of ſight, by conſidering the effects of ſenſible or viſual beauty, with reference to the degrees of ſenſibility of the organs: he continues with conſidering the effects of ſmoothneſs, ſharpneſs, and brilliancy in poliſhed and tranſparent objects; in the coats of animals, in buildings gardens, pieces of water, &c. and neatneſs; with a view of demonſtrating that viſible beauty conſiſts in harmonious, but yet brilliant and contraſted combinations of light, ſhade, and colour, blended, but not confined; and broken, but not cut into maſſes: and it is not peculiarly in ſtraight or curve, taper or ſpiral, long or ſhort, little or great objects, that we are to ſeek for theſe; but in ſuch as diſplay to the eye, intricacy of parts, and variety of tint and ſurface."

Mr. Knight goes on in illuſtration: "ſuch are animals which have looſe, ſhaggy, and curly hair; trees, whoſe branches are ſpread into irregular forms, and exhibit broken

and diverſified maſſes of foliage, and whoſe trunks are varied with moſſes and lichens, or enriched with ivy; buildings that are mouldering into ruins, whoſe ſharp angles are ſoftened by decay, and whoſe crude and uniform tints are mellowed by weather ſtains, and wall plants; ſtreams that flow alternately ſmooth and agitated, between broken and ſedgy banks, reflecting ſometimes clearly, and ſometimes indiſtinctly, the various maſſes of rock or foliage which hang over them; in ſhort, almoſt all thoſe objects in nature or art, which my friend Mr. Price has ſo elegantly deſcribed as picturesque."

The author proceeds with demonſtrating how mixed qualities and ſenſations are to be ſeparated, gives the adverſe opinions of Mr. Price, and Boileau, on the ſubject; and ſupports that of the latter, by inſtancing the groteſque figures found at Rome: the idea is farther purſued and illuſtrated, in particular inſtances. The natural conſequence, ſays the author, "of confining beauty to ſmoothneſs or undulation, either of form or colour," will be inſipidity.

We have endeavoured thus far to give as correct an account as poſſible of the leading ideas of this work, on this abſtract ſubject; there ſtill, however, remains ſeveral other opinions and illuſtrations of the effects of viſion, but which, from the dryneſs and the difficulty of analyzing the work ſatisfactorily, we are tempted to paſs over. The extent and variety of the ſubject, the varying opinions of thoſe who write on it, and the ſtill greater varying opinions of every individual concerning it, neceſſarily demonſtrates that its principles are not at preſent generally underſtood.

Mr. Knight would have rendered his work much eaſier to be read, had he carefully and almoſt mathematically broken it into diviſions and ſubdiviſions; the ſubject is a dry one at beſt, and unleſs relieved by ſuch breaks, and by a proper and lucid arangement of each of its parts, we are neceſſarily ſuffered to wander on, in a kind of uniform monotony, which in his own opinion is ſo little appropriate to the principles of taſte. Our obſervations, however, muſt be ſtrictly confined to the mode of execution, and the caſting of the work, and not to the author's ideas, which are generally lucid, and commonly more accurate than thoſe of his predeceſſors. His language too is clear, and generally conveys his meaning with accuracy.

The ſecond part, on the *Aſſociation of Ideas*, is divided, as we ſaid above, into chapters; the firſt of which is, on the knowledge of improved perception. The author commences with a few conſiderations on artificial perception, which in its improved ſtate, is eſſentially neceſſary to refinement of taſte. The mere pleaſures of imitation are generally of ſhort duration, for, as our judgment improves, we become ſatiated with it, and look for ſcience, in art, which alone can render it pleaſing to us for a continuance of time. This poſition is illuſtrated by ſeveral conſiderations on painting, ſculpture, poetry and muſic, which will be found not only to be accurate, but generally ſatisfactory. The author places great reliance, as a ſupport to his opinion, on the idea that judgment and habit are moſtly a ſource of pleaſure; and on various conſiderations on language, which occupy the greater part of this chapter, and which we think to be both accurate and juſt.

The ſecond chapter is on the *Imagination*, which, as being the fertile ſource of our varied taſtes, Mr. K. beſtows much attention on. Aſſociation of ideas, having by long practice, not only become habitual, but involuntary, has ſuch an effect on the mind, as to render it either grave or gay, as the ideas on which it reſts are pleaſant or otherwiſe:

and to ſuch an extent are involuntary trains of thought occaſionally purſued, as now and then to give origin to derangement; which Mr. Knight ſeems to attribute to ſuch aberrations; the train of thought running quickly on the mind, without its controul. Whether the author means to intimate, that ſuch is the cauſe of madneſs, we are not certain, but we think it a bodily diſeaſe; and point his own arguments reſpecting the effects of drunkenneſs againſt him, and add his own obſervations on dreams, anxiety, grief, and vexation, vivacity, wit, and madneſs to the liſt of his adverſaries in that reſpect. For, we contend that madneſs is generally ſettled in the ſtomach, and conſiſts in the natural functions of the brain being improperly put in action by diſeaſed organs: and that idiotcy is commonly an affection of the brain. Hence, though the involuntary aſſociation of ideas, as argued by Mr. Knight, is always preſent, in madneſs, we contend, that it ſeldom (perhaps never) is more than a ſecondary cauſe of this formidable diſeaſe.

Memory is connected with the imagination by furniſhing it with its materials for action; memory may exiſt without imagination, though the latter can have no being without the former. This principle is illuſtrated and confirmed by conſidering the qualities requiſite for profers and prattlers, the one depending on recollection almoſt ſolely, the other on recollection unbalanced by imagination and judgment.

"As the pleaſures of intellect ariſe from the aſſociation of ideas, the more the materials of aſſociation are multiplied, the more will the ſphere of pleaſure be enlarged." This poſition is illuſtrated by various conſiderations on natural objects; in ſocial and moral feelings; and in the fine arts. As the laſt of theſe ſubjects forms one of the more immediate objects of taſte, the author ſpends more time on it: he therefore treats on the origin, uſe, and meaning, of the word picturesque, and to illuſtrate his opinions, conſiders the ſtyle of painting at its revival, its defects, how it was changed and corrected, and finally, how the word picturesque came into uſe; with the reaſons why it could not be uſed prior to the attainment of a given degree of perfection in the art. Mr. K. next ſhews in what ſenſe picturesque objects may not be beautiful; and in what manner the pleaſure ariſing from picturesque objects is derived.

The pleaſures of the eye and of the intellect being thus improved, by comparing nature and art, a higher reliſh is acquired for the productions of each; hence, objects of ſenſe receive their character from the mind: and picturesque objects being of this nature, they are conſequently indefinite in number and kind. This ſubject is illuſtrated by a few conſiderations on neatneſs, freſhneſs, lightneſs, ſymmetry, regularity, uniformity, and propriety, in houſes and gardens, parks and foreſts. The ſenſe of propriety and congruity is artificial and acquired, as is inſtanced in mixed architecture, in the decorations of grounds, ancient coins, ſymmetry in animals, in the orders of architecture, in gothic buildings, in painting and ſculpture, in ſexual beauty, in love, whether ſenſual, ſocial, metaphyſical, or paſtoral, and in modern dramas. The conſiderations, on various objects, advanced in confirmation and illuſtration of Mr. Knight's opinions will be found juſt and ſatisfactory. "All theſe extra pleaſures he ſays," are from the minds of the ſpectators, whoſe pre-exiſting train of ideas are revived, refreſhed, and re-aſſociated by new, but correſponding impreſſions on the organs of ſenſe; and the great fundamental error which prevails throughout the otherwiſe able and elegant *Eſſays on the Picturesque*, is ſeeking for diſtinctions in external objects, which

only exiſt in the modes and habits of viewing and conſidering them."

The various obſervations which are contained in the remainder of this chapter will be read with great attention by every perſon poſſeſſing a juſt, or even a tolerable perception of truth: they are principally on art, or on the productions of art, as diſplayed in landſcapes, ſculpture, architecture, morals, manners, and on the effect and application of general rules; which laſt ſubject is illuſtrated more at large, by conſidering it, in reference to thoſe branches of ſcience where they have been moſt abundantly and even profuſely applied; *viz.* language and criticiſm. Our limits prevent us from giving a few extracts, on the uſeful combination of the Gothic and Grecian ſyſtems of architecture in the deſigns of modern manſions, which are to be found in it; and, being deſirous of giving an extended account of the work, the ſame reaſon induces us to poſtpone our conſiderations on the remainder to a future number. Ω.

XLI. *The* ROMAN HISTORY, *from the Foundation of Rome, to the Subverſion of the Eaſtern Empire, and the taking of Conſtantinople by the Turks, in the Year of our Saviour* 1453; *including the Antiquities, Manners, and Cuſtoms, as well as the Juriſprudence and Military Eſtabliſhment of the Romans. In ſeven Books: on a new and intereſting Plan. By the Rev.* JOHN ADAMS, *A. M.* 8vo. *pp.* 372.—1805. Law.

IT is well obſerved by Mr. Pinkerton, in the preface to his work on the Scythians and Goths, that it would greatly forward the progreſs of literature, would authors in general endeavour to make ſmall books rather than large ones; and aim at compreſſing the information they would convey into as narrow a compaſs as poſſible, inſtead of profuſely extending it, after the faſhion of the preſent day. We are led to make theſe remarks from a ſurvey of the reſpectable and comprehenſive Roman Hiſtory under conſideration; and think, that whatever excellencies it may poſſeſs of other kinds, it has an undoubted claim to our commendation from its brevity. Whether the younger part of our readers will agree to our opinion, that brevity in treating on each ſubject is a great recommendation to a work, may perhaps not be ſo certain, but of this we deem ourſelves ſure, that all who have paſſed the vivacity of youth, will heartily concur with us, and will as heartily wiſh, that every author would endeavour to be as brief as poſſible.

The object of the preſent work is, to give, in a ſmall compaſs, a Hiſtory of Rome, from its foundation to the ſubverſion of the Eaſtern empire, and the taking of Conſtantinople by the Turks; including an account of the antiquities, manners, and cuſtoms, as well as the juriſprudence and military eſtabliſhments of that energetic people. We preſent our readers with the advertiſement to the work, which, however, does not throw much light on the plan purſued by the author.

"As the ſubject of the following volume is one of the nobleſt that ever employed human attention, a competent knowledge of it is eſſential to a liberal education.

"The conduct of Sylla and Marius, Catiline and Jugurtha, Cæſar and Pompey, Conſtantine and Juſtinian, ſhould be rendered as familiar to young ſtudents as the hiſtory of their native country. What claſſical ſcholar does not wiſh to know every particular, reſpecting Cicero and Salluſt, Ovid and Terence, Horace and Virgil, Juvenal and Tacitus? By a due conſideration of

'What Plato thought, and godlike Cato was;'

much wiſdom may be acquired; while the excellent precepts of Seneca and Antoninus cannot fail to pleaſe and inſtruct.

"The domeſtic virtues of the Roman ladies deſerve the higheſt praiſe. They were remarkable for induſtry, economy, chaſtity, and other amiable qualities.

"The three laſt books are entirely new as an abridgment; for neither the hiſtory of the Eaſtern empire, connected with the revolutions of modern Europe, nor the manners and cuſtoms of the Romans, are to be found in any work of the ſame ſize.

"The author, aware how difficult it is to inſpire a taſte for hiſtorical reading in very young people, has endeavoured to ſelect the moſt intereſting as well as inſtructive parts from the works he has abridged; at the ſame time, nothing has been omitted which could enforce virtuous principles, point out the viciſſitudes of fortune, and create an abhorrence of vice."

The work is divided into ſeven books; the firſt contains a hiſtory of the Roman Monarchy; the ſecond, of the Roman Republic, from its commencement to the deſtruction of Carthage; the third continues the hiſtory of the Republic, from the deſtruction of Carthage to its termination by the battle of Actium, and the commencement of the reign of Auguſtus Cæſar; the fourth, of the Roman Empire, from the commencement of the reign of that prince to its fall in the weſt; and the fifth, the Roman Empire in the eaſt, after its fall in the weſt, to the taking of Conſtantinople by the Turks.

The ſubject of the ſixth book is, an account of the manners, cuſtoms, occupations, laws, and military eſtabliſhments of the Romans, under the ſeparate diviſions of Agriculture, Dreſs, Ladies, Entertainments, Games, Dramatic Entertainments, Rites of Marriage, Funerals, Juriſprudence, Military Eſtabliſhments, and Navy. This book will probably be read with attention by every perſon into whoſe hands the work may fall, as it gives a popular account of the various objects which it embraces.

In the ſeventh and concluding book, the reader will find a variety of miſcellaneous information reſpecting Roman affairs; ſuch as on the provinces of that great Empire, the freedom of its metropolis, its colonies, its language, monuments, temples, aqueducts, baths, triumphal arches, roads, gardening, coins, meaſures, calendar, methods of attacking and defending towns, method of writing, and the education of the Roman youth; together with the various ſubjects in more immediate connection with each of the heads juſt now enumerated, and which it would be both tedious and unintereſting to ſpecify ſingly. The author appears to place the greateſt value on the three laſt books, and we agree with him; but wiſh to add the biographical ſketches found at the end of each of the hiſtorical books, to the liſt of its more amuſing parts.

Mr. Adams appears, by his advertiſement, to wiſh his hiſtory to be put into the hands of youth; and we have only one objection to affording him our moſt cordial ſupport, viz. that the language, in our opinion, is not in general above mediocrity: yet, *ubi plura nitent*, perhaps we might be accuſed of harſhneſs were we to ſay more on the ſubject, as the author is always intelligible, and generally perſpicuous; and it might be objected againſt us, that we are too fond of fine turned periods, and long ſentences. We will, however, preſent our readers with a few extracts from the miſcellaneous department, and leave them to form their own opinion of Mr. Adams's work. They are taken from the biographical ſketches ſubjoined to the fifth book. We ought to have added, that theſe ſketches contain ſhort accounts of the lives of the principal eminent literary or other characters, who flouriſhed within the period embraced

by its reſpective book. The firſt we ſhall give is a ſhort account of Dante, followed by one of Petrarch, and ſome others of great celebrity.

"Dante, an eminent Italian poet, a native of Florence, wrote a comedy on *Paradiſe*, *Purgatory*, and the *Infernal Regions*, which ſhews a wonderful imagination. He was of an ambitious turn, and, having attained ſome of the moſt conſiderable poſts in the commonwealth, was cruſhed by the ruins of the faction which he embraced. He died in exile at Ravenna, in 1321. An excellent mathematician, of the *ſame name and family*, who flouriſhed in the fifteenth century, is memorable for having fitted *a pair of wings* ſo exactly to his body, as to be able to fly with them. He made an experiment ſeveral times over the lake Traſimenus, and ſucceeded ſo well, that he had the courage to perform before the whole city of Perugia, of which he was a native. From the higheſt part of the city he directed his flight over the ſquare, to the admiration of the ſpectators. But unfortunately the iron, with which he managed one of his wings, failed; and then, not being able to balance the weight of his body, he fell on a church, and broke his limb. He afterwards became profeſſor of mathematics at Venice, and died before he was forty years old."

"The celebrated Petrarch, a learned Italian, who has been called the father of modern poetry, was perhaps the firſt among the moderns in whom the ſpirit and genius of literature began to revive. His father was a Florentine, involved in the political factions of the Bianchi family, and wiſhed his ſon to ſtudy the law to aſſiſt his views. But Petrarch preferred retirement; and fixed on Vaucluſe as an eligible reſidence, where he fell in love with a lady, named Laura, whom he has celebrated in his poetry. Here alſo he compoſed his Latin poem, '*Africa*,' which, in the preſent ſtate of literature, would be deemed no prodigy; yet, its author was invited, at the ſame time, by the ſenate of Rome, and the univerſity of Paris, to receive the poetic crown; when he gave the preference to the ſummons of the metropolis of the world. The academical honours of the three faculties had introduced a royal degree of maſter or doctor in the art of poetry; and the title of poet-laureat, which cuſtom, rather than vanity, perpetuates in the Engliſh court, was firſt invented by the Cæſars of Germany. The belief that Virgil and Horace had been crowned in the capital, inflamed the emulation of a Latin bard; and the laurel was endeared to the lover by a verbal reſemblance with the name of his miſtreſs.

"The ceremony of Petrarch's coronation was performed in the capital. After diſcourſing on a text of Virgil, and thrice repeating his vows for the proſperity of Rome, he knelt before the throne, and received from a ſenator a laurel crown, with a moſt precious declaration, '*This is the reward of merit.*' In the familiar ſociety of Cicero and Livy, he had imbibed the ideas of an ancient patriot; and his ardent fancy converted every idea to a ſentiment, and every ſentiment to a paſſion. The aſpect of the ſeven hills, and their majeſtic ruins, confirmed theſe lively impreſſions; and he loved a country by whoſe liberal ſpirit he had been crowned and adopted.

"The elaborate compoſitions of Petrarch, in Latin and Italian, diverted him from ſtudying a foreign idiom; but as he advanced in life, the attainment of the Greek language was the object of his wiſhes rather than his hopes. When he was about fifty years of age, a Byzantine ambaſſador, his friend, and a maſter of both tongues, preſented him with a copy of Homer; and the anſwer of Petrarch is at once expreſſive of his eloquence, gratitude, and regret. After celebrating the generoſity of the donor, and the value of a gift more precious in his eſtimation than gold and rubies, he thus proceeds: 'Your preſent of the genuine and original text of the divine poet, the fountain of all invention, is highly acceptable. Yet your liberality is ſtill imperfect. With Homer you ſhould have given me yourſelf; a guide who could lead me into the fields of light, and diſcloſe to my wondering eyes the inimitable beauties of the Iliad and Odyſſey. I have

ſeated him by the ſide of Plato, the prince of poets, near the prince of philoſophers; and I glory in the ſight of my illuſtrious gueſts. I am delighted with the aſpect of Homer; and as often as I embrace the ſilent volume, I exclaim with a ſigh, illuſtrious bard! With what pleaſure ſhould I liſten to thy ſong, if my ſenſe of hearing were not obſtructed and loſt by the death of one friend, and in the much lamented abſence of another! Nor do I yet deſpair; and the example of Cato ſuggeſts ſome comfort and hope, ſince it was in the laſt period of age that he attained the knowledge of the Greek letters.'—Petrarch died in 1374; and twenty-five different perſons have written his life."

"Boccace, however, a popular writer, who derives his reputation from the Decameron, (an hundred novels of pleaſantry and love,) may aſpire to the more ſerious praiſe of reſtoring, in Italy, the ſtudy of the Greek language. Leo Pilatus, a diſciple of Barlaam, whoſe travels into the Eaſt had made him a proficient in Grecian literature, was detained in his way to Avignon by the hoſpitality of Boccace, who lodged the ſtranger in his houſe, prevailed on the republic of Florence to allow him an annual ſtipend, and devoted his leiſure to the firſt Greek profeſſor, who taught that language in the weſtern countries of Europe. Leo's mind was ſtored with a treaſure of Greek learning. Hiſtory and fable, philoſophy and grammar, were alike familiar to him, who read the poems of Homer in the ſchools of Florence. It was from his explanation that Boccace compoſed and tranſcribed a literal proſe verſion of the Iliad and Odyſſey, which ſatisfied the ambition of his friend Petrarch, whom he ſurvived only a few months."

"Poggius Bracciolinus, a Florentine of great parts and learning, who contributed to the revival of literature in Europe, died in 1459. His remarks on the ruins of Rome are natural and affecting. This elegant writer having aſcended with a friend the Capitoline hill, repoſed themſelves among the ruins of columns and temples, and viewed from that commanding ſpot the wide and various proſpects of deſolation. The place and the object gave ample ſcope for moraliſing on the viciſſitudes of fortune, which ſpares neither man nor the proudeſt of his works, but buries empires and cities in a common grave. When Evander entertained the ſtranger of Troy, 'This Tarpeian rock,' (ſaid he) 'was a ſavage and ſolitary thicket. In the time of Virgil, it was crowned with the golden roofs of a temple. The temple is overthrown, the gold has been pillaged, the wheel of fortune has accompliſhed her revolution, and the ſacred ground is *again diſfigured* with thorns and brambles. The hill of the capital, on which we ſit, was formerly the head of the Roman empire, the citadel of the earth, the terror of kings; illuſtrious by the footſteps of ſo many triumphs, enriched with the ſpoils and tributes of ſo many nations. This ſpectacle of the world, how is it fallen! how changed! how defaced! The path of victory is obliterated by vines, and the benches of the ſenators are concealed by a dunghill.—The forum of the Roman people, where they aſſembled to enact their laws and elect their magiſtrates, is now incloſed for the cultivation of vegetables, or thrown open for the reception of ſwine and buffaloes.—The public and private edifices, which were founded for eternity, lie proſtrate, naked, and broken, like the limbs of a mighty giant; and the ruin is the more viſible, from the ſtupendous relics that have ſurvived the injuries of time and fortune."

"Coſmo of Medicis, who preſided over the republic of Florence thirty-four years, and died in 1464, was the father of a line of princes, whoſe name and age are almoſt ſynonymous with the reſtoration of learning. His riches were dedicated to the ſervice of mankind. He correſponded at once with Cairo and London; and a cargo of Indian ſpices and Greek books was often imported in the ſame veſſel.

"The genius and education of his grandſon, Lorenzo, rendered him, not only a patron, but a judge and candidate, in the literary race. In his palace, diſtreſs was entitled to relief, and merit to reward. Mr. Roſcoe has written an elegant life of this great man, who died in 1492. He was the father of Pope Leo X."

"Aldus Manutius, was the firſt of thoſe celebrated printers at Venice, who were as illuſtrious for their learning as for uncommon ſkill in their profeſſion. He was remarkable for printing Greek neatly and correctly. He acquired, indeed, ſo much reputation in his art, that whatever was finely printed, was proverbially ſaid to have come from the preſs of Aldus. He died in 1516."

"Raphael, an illuſtrious painter and architect, of Italy, by the general conſent of mankind, is acknowledged to have been the prince of painters; and is often ſtyled '*the divine Raphael.*' He was alſo the beſt architect; at leaſt ſo admirable a one, that Leo X. entruſted him with the building of St. Peter's church at Rome. He died in 1520."

"Leo X. Pope of Rome, being a man of taſte, patronized learned men, and equally favoured the arts and ſciences. For this he has been often celebrated, and by our countryman, Pope, in particular:

'But ſee! each muſe in Leo's golden days
'Starts from her trance, and trims her wither'd bays;
'Rome's ancient genius, o'er its ruins ſpread,
'Shakes off the duſt, and rears his rev'rend head.
'Then ſculpture and her ſiſter arts revive;
'Stones leap to form, and rocks begin to live!
'With ſweeter notes each riſing temple rung;
'A Raphael painted, and a Vida ſung.'

"Leo may be conſidered as the principal cauſe of the reformation. For, in order to complete the magnificent church of St. Peter, he publiſhed indulgencies for pardoning the ſins of thoſe who purchaſed them. Theſe being brought into Germany, ſtirred up Luther againſt this unwarrantable traffic; and thus a light was kindled which the Pope's authority could not extinguiſh. He did in 1521."

We cannot take leave of this valuable abridgment of the Roman Hiſtory, without recommending it to the attention of the ſtudent: as an initiatory treatiſe it is highly deſerving of notice, and is entitled to our approbation. K.

XLII. *The* DOMESTIC MEDICAL GUIDE. *In two Parts. Part I. The Family Dispensatory; or, a complete Companion to the Family Medicine Chest, &c. Part II. The Modern Domestic Medicine; comprehending the most approved Methods of treating and obviating the different Diseases that assail the Human Frame; with the most important Information relative to the Cure of those Chronic Diseases which have generally been considered Incurable. By* RD. REECE, *M. D. Third Edition.* 8vo. *pp.* 500. 8*s.* Longman and Co.

THERE are, perhaps, few ſurer indications of the advancement of a nation towards refinement and luxury, than the one manifeſted by a general inclination of moſt ranks of people to medicine, and more particularly to what may be termed the irritation of the love of phyſic; a diſpoſition to domeſtic medicine and quackery. That this nation exhibits ſtrong ſymptoms of ſuch refinement, will hardly be diſputed, and we conceive the bare mention of the circumſtance will enforce immediate conviction. Domeſtic medicine, then, being ſo fully eſtabliſhed, it muſt ſurely be of ſome importance, that clear and explicit directions, interſperſed with numerous cautions, to enable thoſe, deſirous of applying it, with ſafety if not with effect, be laid before the public; and, though we are no way ſanguine in the ſucceſs of anile practitioners, yet it is certainly much better that good books, rather than bad ones, be put into their hands. We therefore avail ourſelves of the appearance of a new

and much enlarged edition of this work, to introduce it to the notice of our readers.

It will probably require little ſtretch of genius, or extent of thought to determine, whether popular treatiſes can ever be of much uſe, or much forward the progreſs of ſcience. For, and in medicine it holds good more eſpecially, if a book contains much ſcience, it ceaſes to become popular, and if it court popular attention, it can be no longer ſcientific; conſequently, popular treatiſes can only create dabblers in ſcience, or, the higheſt honor which they can ever attain will be merely that of becoming the footſtools of learning—introductory or initiatory treatiſes.

The matter then being at iſſue, and the caſe, we apprehend, fairly ſtated, we ſhall be able to eſtimate the proper value of works on domeſtic medicine, with eaſe and preciſion. If every dabbler ſhould be tempted to fancy himſelf knowing, from reading Dr. Buchan's Domeſtic Medicine, we venture to pronounce, on the foregoing principles, that one, of two circumſtances, muſt have taken place;—either that Dr. Buchan's book is deficient in ſcience, or, that the dabbler is a man of no ſcience; and we may throw the fiat of experience into the ſcale to ſtrengthen our determination;—The reader we apprehend will not be long at a loſs to form his own opinion on the ſubject.

If we leave general reaſoning, and turn our attention to the merits and demerits of Dr. Reece's work, we venture to predict, that it can never become ſuch a popular favourite as the *sagacious* work of Dr. Buchan. Dr. R. perhaps may ſay, *non deſensoribus istis*, I feel no inclination to have a bear's paw daſhed in my face, for the ſake of deſtroying a fly. We agree, that certain compariſons abſolutely ſink, inſtead of elevating the object they were intended to raiſe; and it is only with a view of mentioning the immenſe ſuperiority of Dr. R.'s work over that of Dr. Buchan, that we name them on the ſame page: we only regret, that Dr. R. who is well qualified to impart information to medical men, ſhould have impoſed limits on his abilities, requiſite for the conſtruction of a work, on the plan of that under conſideration; the ſlighteſt inſpection of it, at every ſtep, convincing us that in ſpite of himſelf, he has not been able to clog himſelf ſufficiently, to make a popular book.

The Domeſtic Medical Guide abounds with original thoughts throughout, numbers of which are well worthy the attention of medical men, particularly on the ſubjects of Scrophula, Conſumption, Gout, Rheumatiſm, Gravel, and Cancer. If then, the work aſpires to the communication of information, not commonly to be found in medical books, and muſt be, conſequently, far above the comprehenſion of the multitude, need we have much heſitation in predicting that it will never become a popular work? Indeed from ſome circumſtances, in connexion with it, it is pretty evidently deſigned for people of underſtanding, and thoſe of the higher ranks of life, and conſequently it may not be without its uſe.

It might be objected againſt us, that the laws of nature are ſo ſimple, that were they properly underſtood, they would be of eaſy apprehenſion even to mediocrity of talents. The truth of this objection abſtractedly conſidered, we admit; but when we behold the little deſire for knowledge which pervades the generality of mankind, and the ſtill leſs diſpoſition to labour for its acquirement, conjoined with the ſmall advancement of the ſciences, particularly that of medicine, when cloſely ſtudied by men of the moſt accurate obſervation, and the happieſt genius, we have little doubt but our opinion

will be found correct in practice. And though medical men are often tantalized with *Doctors are no way anxious for people to read Dr. Buchan, leſt they ſhould know too much;* yet, they will have little to apprehend from competitors, formed on a mere curſory glance, or even from the moſt profound ſtudy of that erudite work. And, the danger will appear ſtill leſs, when we recollect, that the acuteſt genius rarely acquires profundity in the ſcience of medicine, under fifteen or 20 years cloſe application and experience: and that he is ſeldom a tolerable practitioner, under four or five of ſtudy and obſervation under the moſt favorable circumſtances.—We ſhall therefore principally recommend Dr. Reece's work to the notice of medical men, and to the well informed, rather than to the middling orders of ſociety, convinced as we are, that it can rarely be of uſe to the latter claſs, whilſt it may be uſeful to the other.

One of the principal excellencies of this work, as a popular book, conſiſts in the information or cautions contained in the directions for the reſtoration of ſuſpended animation; the means of counteracting the effects of the various kinds of poiſons, the means to be employed in counteracting the effects of infectious vapours; the obſervations on the nurſing and treatment of children, thoſe on the cow-pox, hypochondriaſis, indigeſtion, nervous diſeaſes, and ſubſtances lodged in the gullet. As a work for medical men, it will be found moſt reſpectable in thoſe diſeaſes connected with diſeaſed organization of the membranes, as Scrophula, Conſumption, Gout, Rheumatiſm, Stone and Gravel, Cancer, and Rickets; and in diſeaſes connected with irritated ſecretions, ſuch as Indigeſtions, Hypochondriaſis, Typhus fevers, and diſorders of theſe claſſes.

As to the plan of the work, the author commences with a conciſe Materia Medica, the articles in which are well ſelected, and adapted to a medicine cheſt. Thoſe on the Arrow-root and Iceland moſs will be worth attending to, particularly the latter, as it contains full directions for the adminiſtration of this deſirable remedy. He next gives a collection of family preſcriptions, followed by the means of counteracting the effects of poiſons on the human frame; the means of recovering drowned perſons, the ordinary management of children, and the treatment of their diſeaſes. The modern Domeſtic Medicine, which forms the next ſubject, compriſes the hiſtory, cauſes, ſymptoms, and moſt approved methods of treatment of the principal diſeaſes, alphabetically arranged. The more valuable of theſe ſubjects, both for the people, and for medical men, are pointed out above; and though we have only enumerated the principal articles, yet many others will be found deſerving of notice, both to the medical practitioner, and to theintelligent adminiſtrer of domeſtic medicine. The ſupplement on the Lues Venerea would have been better diſpenſed with; particularly the prophylactic part, and that for various, both moral and practical reaſons.

The author belabours the quacks, and their noſtrums of univerſal excellence, without mercy, though never without juſtice. Where the compoſition is aſcertained he mentions it, and if valuable and cheap, he now and then recommends it; if not, he expoſes its inefficacy or hurtfulneſs.

We cannot take leave of the treatiſe, without again recommending to ſerious notice, the obſervations on the diſeaſes enumerated, as being worthy the conſideration of medical practitioners. The author's method of treating theſe complaints with diſtilled water is entitled to notice: though it may not always be effectual in thoſe horrible complaints.

The outlines of his treatiſe on conſumption will be found here. The remarks on the Materia Medica will occaſionally be found new and intereſting; and, on the whole it ranks as one of the moſt reſpectable treatiſes on medicine. A.

XLIII. PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE, *exemplified on* LANDSCAPES. *By* THOMAS NOBLE, *Profeſſor of Perſpective, &c. &c. Engraved by* J. CLARK. *Royal 4to. 12 Plates. pp. 36. 1l. 1s. 1805.* Orme.

IT is, perhaps, rather a proof of deficiency of profound erudition in the preſent age, that works on the plan of the one under conſideration ſhould have become ſo numerous and ſo much in demand, the preſs hourly teeming with them; whilſt thoſe of profound reſearch and ſcience are ſuffered to paſs unnoticed, and to fill the warehouſes of their reſpective publiſhers. Yet, the ſpirit of the times being ſuch, we feel obliged to every author who accompliſhes his taſk with ability; obſerving, as we daily do, the flimſineſs of the greater part of the books laying claim to the title of popular treatiſes.

The writer of this work on Perſpective, only propoſes to exemplify his art on landſcapes; thus endeavouring to combine theory with practice: and, in the examples which he gives, he has ſatisfactorily attained his object, the principal excellence of his treatiſe conſiſting in its plainneſs, and in the accuracy of his practical rules, which are ſimple and eaſy to be comprehended. We preſent our readers with his preface, as it will give them the author's ideas on the ſubject, and a ſlight ſketch of his work.

"The neceſſity of eaſy Practical Inſtructions in Perſpective is univerſally acknowledged, and it is to be wondered that nothing of this kind has been before attempted. Maſters of drawing, indeed, frequently complain of the diſadvantage of teaching an art without its principles, and endeavour to let their pupils ſupply the want of ſcience by a habit of copying from correct drawings. But experience proves that ſuch a ſyſtem is erroneous. Few of the moſt ſucceſsful ſcholars of ſuch a practice, unleſs endued with more than common perception, become capable of taking a view from nature, or of deſigning from imagination: to copy a print or drawing is their higheſt attainment, and even in doing that, the taſte and delicacy of the pencil can hardly atone for errors which are continually apparent in their performances.

"Perſpective is the grammar of painting, and it is as impoſſible to be a painter without attention to it, as it is to be an author without regarding the rules of Syntax. The folly of reſorting to an obſolete language for the grammatical rules of our vernacular tongue, has long ſince been exploded; and it is aſſuredly time to ſeparate the painter's grammar from a long and tedious inveſtigation of recondite truths. Indeed, were that cloſe geometrical inveſtigation, which involves the ſtudy of Perſpective at preſent, more neceſſary than it is even generally thought to be, yet would it be proper to endeavour to find a ſhorter and more pleaſing path for the man of taſte, or for him who ſeeks relaxation in the labours of the pencil from more urgent occupations.

"Science and art are generally the provinces of different men, becauſe they demand different faculties of the mind. Inſtead, therefore, of filling volumes with elaborate ſcience, it is certainly more uſeful to mankind, that certain parts ſhould be ſelected, and applied to their appropriate arts. Execution would not then be impeded by uſeleſs ſtudy, nor would the artiſt continue to reject that knowledge, which is abſolutely neceſſary for the perfection of his talents.

"Of ſuch a nature is the preſent deſign. In it will be found enough of the theory of Perſpective to enable the artiſt to delineate his landſcape with truth and accuracy; and as few inſtructions are given without ſuch examples as are continually the ſubjects of drawing, the pencil is kept

in practice, while the understanding is cultivated; taste and the powers of execution are exercised, while the judgment is informed.

"A very small number of geometrical problems, properly selected, will be found sufficient for every purpose in landscape perspective. One plate for explanation will make the learner acquainted with the lines and points by which this science performs its operations; and a single demonstration will make clear to the dullest understanding the reason of those proportions on which the practice of Perspective is founded.

"I consider references as very preferable to repetition; they create a memory, where that mental principle of science is wanting; and they recall former operations which explain each other, and thereby make an easy way to the understanding. They will be found to be numerous. He, whose perception is strong, and memory tenacious, may think their number troublesome—he has only to neglect them. To many, the author believes, he had better appear somewhat troublesome than in the least obscure.

"The support of a candid public, ever ready to patronize that which tends to the improvement of the arts, is respectfully solicited; and with some confidence; since neither care nor exertion has been spared to render this work adequate to the utility of its design, and thereby worthy their attention."

The author commences his work with as many introductory problems in geometry as are found necessary for the easy comprehension of the principles of his art, and then proceeds to a few general and explanatory observations, which are given with perspicuity. The subjects of the plates (twelve in number), besides the diagrams necessary for the geometrical part, which are found on the title plate, and a plate, explanatory of the principal lines, are, 1, Planes parallel and perpendicular to the Picture.—2, Planes inclined to the Picture.—3, Planes inclined to the Horizon.—4, Circular Objects parallel to the Picture.—5, Circles and other Curves.—6, Arches, &c. inclined to the Picture.—7, Various Arches inclined to the Picture.—8, Of inaccessible Vanishing Points.—9 and 10, Shadows.

Facility of practice, rather than abstract reasoning, is generally the design of persons for whom this book is intended; and, though profundity ought to be the aim of every person desirous of excelling, yet, perhaps it may not be essentially necessary for every landscape drawer, particularly when aided by a good understanding, to enter into the depths of perspective, yet, it is always desirable to understand the basis of every art. To beginners, this work will be a useful and easy introductory treatise; and to those who will be content with a general idea of the science, it will be found all that is necessary. E.

XLIV. WERNERIA; *or short Characters of Earths: with Notes according to the Improvements of Klaproth, Vauquelin, and Hauy. By* TERRÆ FILIUS. 12*mo. pp.* 100. 4*s. boards.* 1805. Baldwins. Miller.

THE author of this small poetical treatise on earths informs us, in his preface, that his design in publishing it was to facilitate the knowledge of the science of natural history, by assisting those desirous of studying it, with a step towards the kingdom of minerals. The descriptions are generally Wernerian; the distribution of the substances into genera and species, is made according to the arrangement of Babington and Born; the notes are in conformity with the new analyses of Klaproth, Kirwan, and Vauquelin; together with the comments and annotations of Romé de Lisle and Hauy.

The idea of rendering mineralogical descriptions poetical, is not without precedent in several of the other

branches of ſcience, though we do not recollect any work of the kind in this. The author ſays, "The novelty of this work is in the form of the text, which is in verſe; and the reaſon why it has been preferred to proſe is, that it may aſſiſt the recollection, and ſerve as an artificial memory for the ſeveral characters of the ſubſtances." We approve of his plan, in as far as the characters of minerals are generally ſo dry, as to require ſome exertion if we wiſh to recollect them properly. The ſubject does not afford much ſcope for the flights of poetry, and the verſe does not always ſoar to the ſublime; but the treatiſe may have its uſe by facilitating the recollection of the characters of each ſpecies of this kingdom.

A general deſcription of each earth is given in verſe; and any deficiency as to particulars and minutiæ, is ſupplied by notes, which can better, from the nature of compoſition, deſcend to ſmaller but not leſs important matters. In the notes, too, the author, often names the places where each ſpecies of earth is found; and what is ſtill more valuable, he frequently acquaints us with the uſes to which they may be applied in domeſtic economy. The reader will alſo find in them many particulars reſpecting the proper diſtinction of conteſted ſpecies, and the ſynonyms of authors.

The plan adopted by the author, is firſt to give the general character of earths; next the general character of the genera; and afterwards to ſubdivide them into their proper ſpecies and varieties.

We ſhall, however, give our readers a few ſpecimens of both the poetry and the notes, to enable them to judge for themſelves. The firſt is the ninth ſpecies of Calcareous Earths, or the Fluate of Lime, or Spar.

"Of diverſe colours, and in various ſhapes,
Of cube, or maſs amorphous, fluor's found;
Tranſparent oft, of ſparry texture, hard
And brittle, tho' not with ſteel igniting,
Yet cloſe of frame, and, as a mirror; e'en
With fineſt poliſh, may be made to ſhine.
When heated it ſends out phoſphoric light,
Which on ignition diſappears; in form
Of cryſtal in the fire it crepitates
Without calcining. Fluor it is called,
Becauſe it fuſes earthy ſubſtances,
Tho' hardly fuſible itſelf: an acid too
It holds with lime united, which it ne'er
Yields but to diſtillation, and
Sulphuric force."

"Fluor undergoes no change on expoſure to the air, and is nearly inſoluble in water, and diviſible into a regular octohedron. It ſcratches the carbonate of lime, is phoſphoreſcent, and on being thrown in powder on a hot coal, exhibits a moſt beautiful blue and green colour; and two pieces rubbed againſt one another ſhine in the dark.

"The ſpec. gr. of fluor is 3—09 to 3—19. Analyſis of the amorphous acid 28, 5, lime 21, water 1, ſilex 31, alumine 15, 5, muriatic acid 1, phoſphoric acid 1—Pelletier. Of the cryſtallized, acid 16, lime 57, water 27—Scheele. The colours of fluor imitate the amethyſt, the emerald, the ſapphire, the topaz, and ruby balai. Scheele firſt diſcovered that the baſis of the ſpath fluor was combined with a particular acid, which, among other properties, corrodes glaſs. The chlorophane, a ſubſtance found in Siberia, reſembles ſtrongly the fluate of lime in its green light, when placed on a hot coal.

"Puymann has made a fine uſe of the corroſion of glaſs by the fluoric acid, by drawing figures upon a glaſs on which a thick varniſh had been previouſly laid, and then covering the whole with the fluoric acid, which biting through the outlines of the drawing, left its impreſſion on the glaſs. The beſt work of this kind is

The next is the character of Aſbeſtos.

" Aſbeſtos is magneſia's carbonate
Combined with ſilex, effervesces not
With acids, and is hardly fus'd, and yields
Not freely to inciſion; is brittle,
And breaks in ſplinters, greaſy to the touch;
Now runs in fibres parallel, now curv'd,
And now diverging; its colour olive,
Green, or leek, rarely of yellow hue,
And ſometimes green and white."*

" In hardneſs, brilliance, and tranſparency,
The diamond ev'ry mineral excels.
Black, yellow, green, blue, brown, or grey, 'tis known,
And colourleſs in quartzoſe ſand is found
In flat or rounded grains, ſometimes cube-ſhap'd;
But oft its form eight-ſided is, or twelve:
In texture laminous, but fibrous too,
Irregularly ſo; to ſolar rays
Expos'd the diamond is phoſphoric;
Rubb'd, it emits electric ſparks: what gem
But this from rich Golconda's ſhore, can e'er
To carbon's acid be converted, and
Leave no wreck behind?"

We were tempted, on ſeeing the title of this work, to think it a ſatirical compoſition; indeed the author has ſo carefully kept his verſification out of ſight, that, without previous information, the reader muſt ſee the book before he can have any conception of its object and execution. We can, however, with ſatisfaction, recommend it to the notice of the ſtudent in chemiſtry.

that which repreſents Chemiſtry weeping over the tomb of Scheele, the diſcoverer of the fluoric acid."

*" In the Vatican is a winding-ſheet of aſbeſtos, or amianthus, full of aſhes and half-burnt bones. The ancients ſpun it into cloth; the moderns make matches of it, that burn very bright. Father Kircher uſed one for two years without any waſte, or impairing it in the ſmalleſt degree. The Corſicans mix it with clay, and work it into pots, which are very light, and not ſo fragile as if all clay, and more inſenſible to ſudden changes of temperature."

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Under this Head it is intended to inſert, in the MONTHLY EPITOME *and* LITERARY MAGAZINE, *a ſhort Account and Character of the principal Books recently publiſhed.*

BIOGRAPHY.

MR. MORTIMER's " Political Life of Milton," may be conſidered as the work of a young and ardent mind, and might be found at leaſt as ſatisfactorily given in any other life of that celebrated character. Some ſcraps of poetry are interſperſed, as are ſeveral quotations from Milton's poetical works; and the whole may be conſidered as the unequivocal eulogium on that writer, abounding with the moſt unjuſtifiable cenſure on thoſe by whom his writings were conteſted.

" An Account of the Life of Dr. Samuel Johnſon, from his Birth to his eleventh Year," written by himſelf, though a mere ſcrap, has ſomething curious in it. There are alſo added to it ſeveral letters to the Doctor, written by Miſs Hill Boothby.

Mr. Cayley, in his " Life of Sir Walter Raleigh," has only performed a ſmall part of the duty of a bio-

grapher, and has done little more than collect and publiſh his materials; of the documents, papers, and letters which he has laid before the public, many are undoubtedly intereſting. The diffidence Mr. C. diſcovers in his own powers is viſible in every page, and it rarely permits him to truſt himſelf with the compoſition of two lines together; but his quotations from Hackluyt and other authors relating to Sir Walter are abundant, of great length, and frequently the greater part extremely unimportant.

AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Laurence, who is already known by ſome uſeful agricultural works, has recently publiſhed "A general Treatiſe on Cattle, the Ox, the Sheep, and the Swine, comprehending their Breeding, Manegement, Improvement, and Diſeaſes." This will be found a valuable book to the farmer and grazier; it contains what will be found extremely uſeful, under the different heads embraced by it, viz. *Neat Cattle*, under which head is comprehended the various breeds of Britiſh Cattle, on grazing and fattening.—*Sheep*, the different breeds, wool, ſhepherds.—*Swine*, their varieties, feeding, and fattening,—and *Cattle Medicine*, which includes a view of diſeaſes, and remedies, propoſals for a Veterinary Eſtabliſhment, &c.

POETRY.

"The Sabbath," a Poem, in one volume 12mo, is a commendable performance, and the ſentiments of the Author are truly pious, generous, and humane, ſuch as become an Engliſhman and a Chriſtian.

Mr. Charles Elton has preſented the public with a ſmall Volume of "Poems," containing a pleaſing collection of Sonnets, Tranſlations from Horace, &c. &c.

Mr. Walpole's "Specimens of ſcarce Tranſlations of the ſeventeenth Century, from the Latin Poets," though a trifle, is the compilation of a man of taſte and learning, and was undertaken and completed, Mr. W. tells us, "during the hours of relaxation, from a literary performance of a more ſevere nature." The tranſlations are ſelected, not only from Engliſh, but from French authors, and have in general ſufficient merit to juſtify the revival of them.

NOVELS.

Aubrey, in 4 Volumes, by Mr. Dallas, is an extremely agreeable and inſtructive Tale, in which the incidents themſelves afford a leſſon both improving and entertaining, and the ſentiments are always founded on juſt perceptions of Reaſon and Nature.

The Homicide, by Mr. Carlton, in 2 volumes, is an intereſting ſtory. The characters are ſtrongly drawn, and the incidents follow each other in a natural manner. An exemplary wife is the principal Character of the Tale, and the reader follows her with uniform intereſt through the different ſcenes that ſhe encounters.

DRAMA.

In Mr. Morton's "School of Reform, ſome of the incidents exceed the bounds of probability; but generally ſpeaking, the characters are well drawn, the Dialogue is animated, and the intereſt of the reader is throughout kept alive.

Mr. Colman, in his Comedy of "Who wants a Guinea," has drawn a lively portrait of a generous individual who flies to the ſuccour of every fellow creature that *wants a Guinea*. The other perſonages are ſtrongly marked: ſome wit, and more broad humour, enliven the ſcene, and on the whole the repreſentation is attended with pleaſing effects.

Mr. Dibdin, in his Opera of "The Engliſh Fleet in 1342," has, in order to rouſe our patriotic feelings at the preſent moment, gone deep into

our hiſtorical Records, and has endued it with ſundry pretty ſpeeches, ſome drollery, and ſome pleaſing ſongs.

TRAVELS.

The Tranſlation of "Michaux' Travels in America," by Mr. Lambert, is an extremely intereſting volume. The object of M. Michaux' viſit to America appears to have been the renewal of a Botanical Intercourſe between the old and new continents, which had been eſtabliſhed by his father, who had, for that purpoſe, formed a botanic garden in the neighbourhood of Charlestown; but he does not appear to have intended to publiſh his obſervations; of courſe, the work is only a ſketch of the prominent features which attracted his attention, but the facts noticed are very intereſting, and are delivered in a plain and unaffected ſtyle.

Dr. Griffith's Travels in Europe, Aſia Minor, and Arabia, in one volume 4to, is a work that may be conſidered as comparatively ſuperficial; indeed little new matter can now be expected to occur in deſcriptions of travels in the deſerts of Arabia. From the haſty manner in which Dr. G. travelled, his opportunities of making extenſive obſervations were not many, and though no great degree of amuſement or information can be expected, yet the reader will find ſufficient of both, to compenſate for the trouble of looking over his work. Dr. G. informs us, that if the ſale of his book prove ſucceſsful, it is his intention to publiſh a volume, containing his Travels in India, a country which he has examined with great attention; and from which we ſhould hope to derive conſiderable information; India having become ſo intereſting that it is almoſt impoſſible for any perſon who has ſpent much time there not to be able to communicate ſome important matter.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Monthly Epitome.

Sir, Epworth, June 3d, 1805.

I BEG leave to communicate, through the channel of your intereſting publication, a few obſervations on what is denominated the *Curl* in potatoes, which has generally been conſidered as a diſeaſe that admitted of a cure, and various means with that intention have been pointed out, but the cauſe has certainly been overlooked. The curl has only been known about forty years, and may be attributed ſolely to difference of temperature. After the potatoes are taken out of the ground in October, they are immediately placed in large heaps, called Pies, which are made in this manner: the potatoes are piled up on the ground in an oblong, or in a circular form, in a ſloping manner, in any quantity from five tons to fifty tons in a pie, and being covered with clean dry ſtraw, a trench is dug round the pie, and the earth from this trench is placed over the ſtraw ſufficiently thick to protect the potatoes from being pervaded by the froſt; they are thus kept in a warm temperature during the winter, and till the pies are opened in the ſpring for the purpoſe of ſale, and preparing ſets for the enſuing crop. On cutting the potatoes and ſetting them in the ground, the warm temperature to which they have been expoſed in the pie, having nearly deſtroyed their irritability, of courſe the germination, inſtead of being haſtened, is delayed, and by a wet

known law of chemiſtry, cold being produced by evaporation, the temperature during the time of germination being ſo much lower than during their remaining in the pie, a plant is produced actually in a ſtate of deſtruction from cold.

Now potatoes grown from ſets obtained from the North of Scotland, the ſets having been expoſed to a colder temperature in that country than what they find in this, on account of the difference of climate, is the cauſe of there being ſo few curled ones in the crop taken from thoſe ſets.

I am, Sir, your's, &c.
JOHN YORKE.

For the Monthly Epitome.

A brief Account of the Travels of Meſſrs. HUMBOLDT *and* BONPLAND, *between the Tropics, in* 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, *and* 1804. *By* J. C. DELAMETHERIE.*

THE intereſt that the learned world takes in the travels of Meſſrs. Humboldt and Bonpland, and my friendſhip for them, impoſe on me the agreeable obligation of giving a conciſe account of what I have been able to learn reſpecting them, either from their public and private correſpondence, or from the memoirs read in the Inſtitute.

After making phyſical reſearches for eight years in Germany, Poland, England, France, Swiſſerland, and Italy, M. Humboldt came to Paris in 1798, where the Muſeum of Natural Hiſtory afforded him an opportunity of ſailing round the world with captain Baudin. When on the point of ſetting out for Havre, with Bonpland, a pupil of the School of Medicine and Garden of Plants, the war which recommenced with Auſtria, and the want of funds, induced the Directory to put off the voyage of Baudin till a more favorable occaſion. M. Humboldt, who had conceived the deſign, ever ſince 1792, of undertaking, at his own expence, a voyage to the tropics, in order to promote the ſciences, reſolved to accompany the men of ſcience who were deſtined for Egypt. The Battle of Aboukir having interrupted all direct communication with Alexandria, his plan was to take advantage of a Swediſh frigate which was to carry the Conſul Sezioldebrant to Algiers, to accompany the caravan thence to Mecca, and to proceed to India by Egypt and the Perſian Gulph: but the war, which broke out in an unexpected manner in October 1798, between France and the States of Barbary, and the troubles in the Eaſt, prevented M. Humboldt from ſetting out from Marſeilles, where he waited for two months to no purpoſe. Impatient at this delay, but firm in the project of joining the expedition in Egypt, he ſet out for Spain, hoping he ſhould be able to proceed more eaſily under the Spaniſh flag from Carthagena to Algiers or Tunis. He took the road to Madrid through Montpellier, Perpignan, Barcelona, and Valentia; but the news from the eaſt became every day more diſtreſſing. The war there was carried on with unexampled fury, and he was at length obliged to renounce the deſign of going through Egypt to Indoſtan. A happy concurrence of circumſtances, however, indemnified M. Humboldt for this delay. In March 1799, the court of Madrid granted him full permiſſion to proceed to the Spaniſh Colonies in both the Americas, in order to make ſuch reſearches as might be uſeful to the ſciences. His catholic majeſty even deigned to ſhew particular intereſt for the ſucceſs of this expedition; and M. Humboldt, after reſiding ſome months at Madrid and Aranjuez, ſet out from Europe in June 1799, accompanied by Bonpland, who unites an extenſive

* From *Journal de Phiſique.*

knowledge of botany and zoology to that indefatigable zeal and love for the ſciences, which induce men to ſubmit with indifference to all kinds of hardſhips.

With Bonpland M. Humboldt travelled for five years at his own expence, between the tropics, paſſing over, by ſea and land, nearly 9000 leagues. Theſe two travellers, provided with recommendations from the court of Spain, embarked in the Pizarro frigate, at Corunna, for the Canaries. They touched at the iſland of Gracioſa, near Lancerotta, and at Teneriff, where they aſcended to the crater of the peak, in order to analyſe the atmoſpheric air, and make geological obſervations on the baſaltes and porphyritic ſchiſt of Africa. In the month of July they arrived at the port of Cumana, in the gulph of Cariaco, a part of South America celebrated by the labours and misfortunes of the indefatigable Löfling. In the courſe of 1799 and 1800 they viſited the coaſt of Paria, the Indian Miſſions of Chaymas, and the province of New Andaluſia, one of the hotteſt, but at the ſame time healthieſt, countries in the world, though convulſed by dreadful and frequent earthquakes. They traverſed the provinces of New Barcelona, Venezuela, and Spaniſh Guiana. After determining the longitude of Cumana, Caraccas, and ſeveral other points by obſervations of the ſatellites of Jupiter; after collecting plants on the ſummits of Caripe and Silla de Avila, crowned by *Befaria*, they ſet out for the capital of Caraccas in February 1800, and the beautiful valleys of Aragua, where the large lake of Valentia calls to remembrance that of Geneva, but embelliſhed by the majeſtic vegetation of the tropics.

From Portocabello they proceeded ſouth, penetrating from the coaſt of the ſea of the Antilles as far as the boundaries of Brazil towards the equator. They firſt traverſed the immenſe plains of Calabozo, Apure, and Lower Oronoko; the Llanos, deſerts ſimilar to thoſe of Africa, where by the reverberation of the heat, but under the ſhade, Reaumur's thermometer riſes to 33° or 37°, and where the ſcorching ſoil, for more than 2000 leagues, differs only five inches in its level. The ſand, ſimilar to the horizon at ſea, exhibits every where the moſt curious phenomena of refraction and elevation. Without any vegetation, in the dry months it affords ſhelter to the crocodile and the torpid boa.

The want of water, the heat of the ſun, and the duſt raiſed by the ſcorching winds, harraſs in turn the traveller, who directs himſelf and mule by the courſe of the ſtars, or by ſome ſcattered trunks of the *mauritia* and *embothrium*, which are diſcovered every three or four leagues.

At St. Fernando d'Apure, in the province of Varinas, Meſſrs. Humboldt and Bonpland began a laborious navigation of nearly 500 leagues in canoes, during which they made a chart of the country by the help of time-keepers, the ſatellites, and lunar diſtances. They deſcended the river Apure, which falls into the Oronoko in the latitude of ſeven degrees. Having eſcaped from imminent danger of ſhipwreck near the iſland of Pananuma, they aſcended the latter river as far as the mouth of the river Guaviare, paſſing the famous cataracts of Atures and Maypure, where the cavern of Ataruipe contains mummies of a nation deſtroyed by a war of the Caribs and Maravitains. From the mouth of the river Guaviare, which deſcends from the Andes of New Granada, and which Father Gumilla erroneouſly took for the ſources of the Oronoko, they quitted the latter, and aſcended the ſmall rivers Atabapo, Tuamini, and Temi.

From the miſſion of Javita they

proceeded by land to the ſources of the Guainia, which the Europeans call the river Negro, and which Condamine, who ſaw it only at its mouth in the river Amazon, calls a freſh water ſea. Thirty Indians carried their canoes through buſhy trees of *hevea*, *lecythis*, and the *laurus cinnamomoides*, to Cano Pimichin.—By this ſmall ſtream our travellers proceeded to the river Negro, which they deſcended as far as the ſmall fortreſs of San Carlos, which has been erroneouſly believed to be ſituated under the equator, and as far as the frontiers of the Grand Para, the captainry-general of Brazil. A canal from Temi to Pimichin, which, on account of the level nature of the ground, is very practicable, would form an interior communication between the province of Caraccas and the capital of Para, much ſhorter than that of Caſquiare. By this canal alſo, ſuch is the aſtoniſhing diſpoſition of the rivers in this new continent, one might deſcend in a canoe from the river Guallaga, within three days journey of Lima, or the South Sea, by the river Amazon and the river Negro, as far as the mouth of the Oronoko oppoſite to Trinidad, a navigation of nearly 2000 leagues. The miſunderſtanding which prevailed then between the courts of Madrid and Liſbon, prevented M. Humboldt from carrying his operations beyond St. Gabriel de las Cochuellas, in the captainry-general of Great Para.

La Condamine and Maldonado, having determined aſtronomically the mouth of the river Negro, this obſtacle was leſs ſenſible, and it remained to fix a part more unknown, which is the arm of the Oronoko, called Caſquiare, forming the communication between the Oronoko and the river Amazon, and reſpecting the ſituation of which there have been ſo many diſputes for fifty years paſt.—To execute this labour, Meſſrs. Humboldt and Bonpland aſcended from the Spaniſh fortreſs of St. Carlos, along the river Negro, and the Caſquiare to the Oronoko, and on the latter to the miſſion of Eſmeraldo, near the volcano Duida, or as far as the ſources of that river.

The Guaica Indians, a very white, ſmall, and almoſt pigmy race of men, but exceedingly warlike, who inhabit the country to the eaſt of the Paſimoni; and the Guajaribes, of a dark copper colour, extremely ferocious, and ſtill anthropophagi, render fruitleſs every attempt to reach the ſources of the Oronoko, which the maps of Caulin, though in other reſpects meritorious, place in a longitude much too far eaſt.

From the miſſion of Eſmeralda, an aſſemblage of huts, ſituated in the moſt remote and moſt ſolitary corner of this Indian world, our travellers deſcended, with the aſſiſtance of the floods, 340 leagues; that is to ſay, the whole of the Oronoko, as far as towards its mouths at St. Thomas de la Nueva Guyana or Angoſtura, paſſing a ſecond time the cataracts, to the ſouth of which the two hiſtoriographers of theſe countries, Father Gumilla and Caulin, never penetrated.—[*To be continued.*]

To the Editor of the Monthly Epitome.

SIR, Portſmouth, June 1, 1805.

MANY of your readers will undoubtedly recollect, that a ſubſcription was ſet on foot, a few years ago, for the purpoſe of erecting a grand architectural monument to the memory and honour of our brave ſeamen, as an humble acknowledgment for the ſplendid victories gained by them during the laſt war; and for which, many deſigns were publicly exhibited, in one of the great rooms in Pall-Mall. After numerous inquiries concerning the ſucceſs of the ſubſcription, and the ſtate of the buſineſs, it uniformly appears that ſcarcely any perſon is at all acquainted with either; and the

natural ſuppoſition is, that the whole is at a ſtand. I ſhall, therefore, as one intereſted in the honour of the "Guardians of our Iſle," be much obliged to any of your correſpondents if they will, through the medium of the Monthly Epitome, communicate any information on the preſent ſtate of the buſineſs which they may poſſeſs, and have little doubt but it will oblige your readers, as much as it will intereſt Yours, &c. S. W.

To the Editor of the Monthly Epitome.

SIR, Hanover-ſquare, June 3.

WHEN we conſider the opulence and taſte of many of the leading characters of this country, and the readineſs which they occaſionally diſplay, in encouraging the fine arts, it will afford much cauſe for regret, that the opportunity of eſtabliſhing a Britiſh National Gallery of Painting, afforded by the ſale of the Shakeſpeare Gallery and its contents, ſhould have been ſuffered to paſs by, with no exertion towards completing the original deſign of its patriotic founder. The public ſpirit which gave birth to ſo honourable and ſo magnificent an undertaking, and the infinite labour beſtowed on bringing it to maturity, can never be ſufficiently applauded, and certainly deſerved a much better return from the public ſpirit of theſe opulent kingdoms, than was evinced by the neglect ſo openly demonſtrated in ſuffering it to be diſperſed abroad, and many of the paintings expoſed for ſale in the common auction rooms. The names of the ſeveral artiſts, who have contributed to enrich this national collection with their choiceſt productions, will never be obliterated from the minds of thoſe who admire diſtinguiſhed judgment, genius, and taſte; but what muſt they feel on beholding the grandeſt efforts of their pencils thus diſperſed, flattering themſelves, as they probably may have done, that their paintings would occupy a diſtinguiſhed ſituation in a national gallery. It will, probably, at this time, be vain to regret this diſperſion of the collection, and the moſt arduous and perſevering attempts at re-eſtabliſhing it would be abſolutely ineffectual; yet, whatever be the fate of painting in this country, it will be ſome conſolation to its artiſts, and the lovers of art, that the pictures of the Shakeſpeare Gallery undeniably evinced, how ſoon, with a little foſtering care, on the part of the public, the Britiſh ſchool might vie with that of any other age or nation.

Whilſt we thus deplore the loſing of ſo deſirable an opportunity of eſtabliſhing a national gallery of paintings, it is with great pleaſure we behold the efforts of ſome public ſpirited individuals towards eſtabliſhing a Britiſh Inſtitution for the encouragement of the Fine Arts in this nation. As it will, in ſome meaſure, be public property, there will, we truſt, be little danger of its collections being diſperſed abroad, and are led to hope that the deſires of Mr. Barry, and others poſſeſſing ſimilar feelings, if not gratified in their day, will eventually be fulfilled, and that the united kingdoms will ſhortly poſſeſs an aſſemblage of the works of art, which ſhall, in a great meaſure, ſuperſede the neceſſity which our artiſts at preſent lie under, of viſiting Italy or France, for the completion of their ſtudies.

If you deem theſe few obſervations worthy of inſertion in your reſpectable publication, they are much at your ſervice; and the readineſs with which you inſerted my laſt communication, leads me to hope for a ſimilar indulgence in the preſent inſtance.

I am, ſir, your's, &c.

PHILOTECHNES.

To the Editor of the Monthly Epitome.

SIR, Birmingham, June 10.

IN your number for February laſt, I obſerved a letter, containing

ſome inquiries concerning a collection of engravings on wood, exhibited in Mr. Landſeer's lecture at the Royal Inſtitution. Being an admirer of that mode of engraving, and not having heard any previous mention of ſuch a collection, I was in hopes that ſome of your correſpondents would, long ere this, have given you ſome account of it. At any rate, my impatience to ſee it, induced me to addreſs you on the ſubject, by way of repeating the inquiry, in hopes that ſome one will be able to give you the required information.

I am, ſir, yours, &c. O. N.

To the Editor of the Monthly Epitome.

SIR, London, June 6, 1805.

IN caſting my eye over a recent French Journal, I ſtumbled on an extract from a letter, profeſſing to be written by Dr. Mitchell, of New York, to Dr. Valentin, of Nantz, of which the following is a tranſlation: "This learned chymiſt ſays, that he is more and more convinced that the alkaline ſalts are the beſt antiſeptics in nature; that their uſe in deſtroying infection daily gains ground in the United States, and that they have no farther confidence in fumigating with acids."

The well known ardour with which the French embrace novelty, and the vagueneſs of the language of the foregoing extract, led me to doubt, for ſome time, whether the whole might not be a fabrication. But, as ſtriking events ceaſe to be uncommon, and a recent work in our own country aſſerts, that water is the beſt antidote againſt peſtilence, I thought it would be adviſeable to ſuſpend my judgment till the acquirement of more poſitive information ſhould enable me to decide with preciſion as to the relative utility of acid fumigations, and of alkaline ſalts, ſo looſely given in the preceding paragraph.

I am utterly at a loſs to imagine why alkaline ſalts ſhould deſtroy the confidence of the Americans in the well known and tried efficacy of acid fumigations; but I ſhall be much obliged to any of your correſpondents for farther information, through the medium of your Magazine, as to the reality of the ſtatement contained in the above extract; and if it be founded in truth, I ſhould be glad to be informed of any plan for uſing alkaline ſalts in the deſtruction of infectious vapours, the which has had ſo powerful an influence on the inhabitants of the United States.

I am, ſir, yours, &c. M. D.

To the Editor of the Monthly Epitome.

SIR, Bedford, May 29, 1805.

IN one of the latter numbers of that reſpectable work, Dr. Anderſon's Recreations in Agriculture, I was much pleaſed with an account of the utility of the falſe or common Acacia (*Robinia pseud-acacia*) in the formation of fences, &c. I ſhould be much obliged to any of your correſpondents if they will communicate, through the medium of the Monthly Epitome, any practical information they may poſſeſs, either for or againſt its utility, ſo favourably ſpoken of by the Doctor. The principal points to be attended to, will be the nature of the ſoil in which it flouriſhes or fails, the rapidity or ſlowneſs of its growth in certain ſoils, and any other information which may be ſuppoſed to be uſeful in cultivating it to the beſt advantage.

I am, ſir, yours, &c. J. O.

For the Monthly Epitome.

A CATALOGUE OF THE COLLECTION OF MARBLES MADE BY THE LATE CHARLES TOWNLEY, ESQ. AT PARK-STREET, WESTMINSTER.

(*Continued from page* 205.)

19. A STATUE, four feet high, wanting the greater part of both arms, of a Venus, or more properly, of the Goddeſs Iſis, under her appellation of Angerona, who is repreſented on ancient monuments,

with the finger of the right hand applied to the mouth; in which action this figure was probably employed, as a ſmall point of marble remained on the chin. Iſis is thus repreſented in a ſtate of ſilence or inaction.

20. A ſtatue of a Fawn, about four feet high, holding a ſyringa in the right hand, and a pedum in the left; formerly in the Maccarani palace at Rome. The reſtorations were executed by Algardi.

21, 22. Two ſtatues, about four feet high, found in 1775, by Mr. G. Hamilton, in the ruins of the villa of Antoninus Pius, ſituate near Civita Lavinia, the ancient Lanuvium: they are antique repetitions of a ſtatue in bronze deſcribed by Pliny and Pauſanias, as one of the moſt admired works of Praxiteles. This ſtatue was diſtinguiſhed at Athens, where it ſtood in the ſtreet of the Tripod by the name of ΠΕΡΙΒΟΗΤΟΝ (meaning Præclarus, the Renowned) becauſe that great ſculptor had ingeniouſly united in that figure two very different mythological characters, namely, that of Bacchus, whoſe form, when young, is graceful and effeminate, and that of a Satyr. On the firſt aſpect, theſe ſtatues give the idea of a beautiful young Bacchus, with an attitude of graceful dignity, and the head gently inclined forward; but ſoon the joint character of the ſatyr appears in the horns, the pointed ears, and the ſhaggy hair of the goat, and the body partakes likewiſe of firmneſs and muſcular dryneſs.

23. A recumbent figure of Diana, of the ſize of ſmall life, with cloſe drapery, reſting on her left hand, and advancing the right. On the plinth is her bow, with the heads of Gryphons at the ends of it. This figure, and one ſimilar to it, purchaſed by Count Walmoden, were in 1766, in the villa Veroſpi, the ſite of the magnificent gardens of Salluſt, near the circus of Flora, and the Salarian gate of Rome. It is probable that they had been part of the decorations of the fountain, of which there appeared traces in the form of a creſcent, compoſed of rich marbles and moſaics. There are two other repetitions of theſe figures; one of which is in the Borgheſe, and the other in the Colonna palaces.

24. A ſmall ſtatue of Hercules, in an advanced age, and ſitting on a rock, covered with the Lion's ſkin.—There are many repetitions of this compoſition, of which the Torſo, in the Vatican, appears to have been the original. The right arm is improperly reſtored, holding apples inſtead of a patera.

25. A ſtatue, in bronze, two feet ſix inches high, of Hercules, carrying away apples from the gardens of the Heſperides. Behind him is an apple-tree, on which hangs the ſerpent or dragon, which he is ſaid to have deſtroyed. It was found at Gebeleh, a ſmall modern town, near the ſite of the ancient Byblos, on the coaſt of Syria, and was ſent to England by the late Dr. Swinney, chaplain to the embaſſy at Conſtantinople, in 1799, where he purchaſed it of a Greek merchant, who had recently procured it on its firſt diſcovery.

26. A figure of a youth placed on the ground, with one leg bent under him, and the other ſtretched forward. He holds, with both hands, the fragment of an arm, which he is biting, and which is part of another figure, compoſing originally a groupe of two youths, who had quarreled at the game of the Talus, as appears by one of the bones which remains in the hand of the broken arm. The body is covered in part by a veſt made of the ſkin of ſome animal.—This groupe was found in the baths of Titus, at Rome, during the Pontificate of Urban VIII. and was placed by Cardinal Franceſco Barbarini, nephew of that Pope, in the Barbarini palace, from whence it paſſed to Mr. Townley's collection,

in 1768. The Aſtragalizontes, of Polycletus, are recorded by Pliny, to have been in bronze, and placed in the palace of Titus, contiguous to the Flavian Amphitheatre. The ſubject of this groupe, according ſo exactly with the above mentioned, little doubt can be entertained of its being a repetition of it as originally conjectured by Winckelmann, tom. ii. p. 196.

27. A groupe of a Fawn and a Nymph, ſmall life, found in 1772, in the Pianura di Caſſio, near Tivoli, with many other valuable monuments, now placed in the Vatican, and mentioned by Viſconti, Muſ. Pio. Clem. tom. i. p. 13.

28. A groupe of a Dog and Bitch at play, about two feet high. A groupe, nearly ſimilar to this now in the Vatican, was found with it in 1774, by Mr. G. Hamilton, at Monte Cagnuolo, which ſtands within the precinct of the villa of Antoninus Pius, at Lanuvium.

29. A Terminus of the bearded Bacchus, in his Priapeid character. The whole cippus, with the head, is entire, and of ancient Greek workmanſhip. It is ſix feet high, was found near Baiæ, in 1771, and was brought to England by the late Dr. Adair.

30. A head of Juno, larger than life, crowned with an indented tutulus or diadem, peculiar to the prieſthood. This was brought from Rome in 1774.

31. A colcſſal h ead of Minerva, ſent from Rome in 1787. The eyes had been made of various materials, in imitation of the natural eye, the ſockets only of which now remain. The border alſo is all that remains of the helmet, which was of the cloſe ſort, ſuch as given to the heads of Minerva, upon the moſt early medals of Athens.

32. A head of Apollo Phileſius, belonging anciently to a ſtatue of Apollo, ſimilar to that engraven in the Muſ. Capitol, tom. iii, pl. 13. This head was obtained in 1773, from Cardinal Alex. Albani, on his removing it from a ſtatue of Bacchus, upon which it had been improperly placed, then ſtanding in his villa.

33. A head of Meſſalina, wife of the Emperor Claudius. A head ſimilar to this, and the only other known of this empreſs, in marble, is engraved in the Muſ. Cap. tom. ii, pl. 14. It was found in the villa Caſali, upon the Eſquiline Hill, in 1775.

34. A head of Aratus, the Cilician, or the Aſtronomer. It was found in 1770, at Muræna, amongſt the ruins of a villa belonging to Sulpitius. Varro Muræna, whoſe valuable library has been recorded, and who was colleague with Auguſtus in his conſulſhip. Similar heads are in the muſeum of the capitol, and in the collection of Mr. R. P. Knight. They are all in the beſt ſtyle of Grecian ſculpture, correſponding with the age he lived in.

35. A terminus head of Homer, in the younger of the two characters of heads which have been found in marble, and are ſuppoſed to repreſent the father of poetry, becauſe they reſemble the heads which appear inſcribed with his name on the medals of Amaſtris, and other cities, whoſe inhabitants, to do honour to themſelves, claimed him as a fellow-citizen. This terminus was with the head above mentioned.

36. A head of Julia Sabina, the daughter of Matidea, whoſe mother was Marciana, the ſiſter of Trajan. Labina was married to Hadrian, in the year 100 of our æra, ſeventeen years before he was declared emperor. She died, as is ſuppoſed, by poiſon, in 138. The elaborate and intricate faſhion of plaiting the hair, which appears in this head, prevailed chiefly in the reigns of theſe two emperors, and it is exactly repeated on the medals of this empreſs.

37. A head of Apollo Muſagetes, or leader of the muſes, reſembling in

the hair and character of the face the head of a muſe. It belonged to a ſtatue of Apollo, ſimilar to that engraven in Muſ. Cap. tom. iii, 15.—It was brought to England by the late Mr. Lyde Browne.

38. A head of Minerva, found in 1784, in the villa Caſali, amongſt ruins, ſuppoſed to have belonged to have belonged to the baths of Olympiadorus. The eyes were formed of ſtones of the onyx kind, or of vitrified matter, in imitation of the natural eye. The helmet and the breaſt are executed in bronze, by Albacini, from an antique buſt of Minerva, engraven in the ſixth volume of the Vatican Muſeum.

39. A head of an Amazon, in the early ſtyle of Grecian ſculpture. It belonged to a ſtatue ſimilar to that which is engraven in Mus. Cap. tom. iii, pl. 46; and to that formerly in the Mattei collection, now in the Vatican. It was brought from Rome by Mr. Lyde Browne.

40. A head belonging to a ſtatue of one the Dioſcuri, a character frequently repeated. Found near Rome, by Mr. Gavin Hamilton.

41. A head of Iſis, in an ancient ſtyle of ſculpture, ending in a terminus. It was found by Mr. Gavin Hamilton in the Pantanella, a part of Hadrian's villa, near Tivoli.

42. A head of Diana: the hair of the ſides is tied in a knot on the top of the head; and on the back part it forms a buſt, which projects, reſembling flames, or a ſymbol of virginity.

43. A head of Atis, with the Phrygian or myſtical conic bonnet. Found near Rome.

BIOGRAPHY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN.

THE biography of an eminent ſtateſman involves, in ſome degree, the hiſtory of the times in which he lived; and a recital of events, which owe their birth, in a great meaſure, to his counſels or his authority, becomes particularly intereſting. Every mind of unuſual powers has ſome prominent feature by which it is diſtinguiſhed from others, the fruit and immediate effect of vigorous exertion. Theſe obſervations apply with peculiar ſtrength to the ſubject of this memoir, the active part of whoſe life was in a great meaſure ſpent in the ſervice of his country.

William Petty, Marquis of Lanſdown, was born in the year 1737; his father was John Firzmaurice, created by his late Majeſty in 1753, Earl of Shelburne, Viſcount Fitzmaurice, and Baron Dunkeron, in Ireland, and Baron Wycombe, in Great Britain. His lordſhip being intended for the army, had, early in life, a commiſſion in the Guards, and ſerved during the ſeven years war as a volunteer, under Prince Ferdinand. At the battles of Campen and Minden, he evinced great perſonal courage; and when the campaign was over, returned to England. His father dying in 1761, he inherited his titles and immenſe property, and was ſucceeded, as repreſentative for the borough of Chipping Wycomb, by Colonel Barre.

His lordſhip, ſhortly after, was appointed aid-de-camp to the King, and his military conſtantly kept pace with his political rank.

Having early taken part in the affairs of the ſtate, he cultivated an intimate acquaintance with the Earl of Chatham; and whatever part of

his great and well earned reputation he owed to himſelf, it is certain that he was much indebted to his intimacy with that profound ſtateſman, for the progreſs which he made in the ſcience of politics.

Under ſuch a preceptor, and at a time full of intereſt, did the Earl of Shelburne commence his political career. Nor is it difficult, in many features of his ſubſequent conduct, to trace a reſemblance to his bright original. In April 1763, on the day in which Lord Bute's adminiſtration gave way to that of Mr. George Grenville, he was ſworn a privy-counſellor, and firſt Lord of the board of trade, an office, which after holding a few months, he reſigned in diſguſt.

It is the happy prejudice of the people of England to conſider their country as that moſt diſtinguiſhed in the ſyſtem of Europe; and the two excellencies on which they profeſs to found this pre-eminence are, its commerce and conſtitution: the attention of the nation, therefore, has hitherto been confined to theſe two objects, and as long as the ſources of their wealth, and thoſe of their liberties remain unindangered, they ſubmit with indifference to meaſures which are conſidered as only temporary. At this period, however, the commerce and conſtitution were believed to be in equal and imminent danger; the former from the attack of American privileges, the latter from a ſyſtem of corrupt favoritiſm and a double cabinet. The nation had murmured much at the cloſe of the late war. The advantages of the peace were conſidered as nothing equivalent to what might have been expected from the long and uninterrupted courſe of our victories. The treaty indeed was conſidered as the effect of the general policy of this double cabinet, which had now become an object of enthuſiaſtic hatred and abhorrence to the people. The mere ſuſpicion of any union with this deteſted faction was ſufficient to raiſe a public clamour ſo loud and menacing, as to reſtrain even the higher members, who formed the cabinet itſelf, to a ſuſpenſion and temporary concealment of their fatal intrigues. Under theſe circumſtances it was the policy of this ſupreme faction to diſmiſs the exiſting miniſter, and by an apparent indulgence to the prejudice and clamours of the people, to divert the miſchief from their own heads. It was thus that Mr. George Grenville was called to his nominal adminiſtration. The cabinet, however, in their change of miniſters, had made nothing but a change of inſtruments, the ſame meaſures being ſtill purſued. New murmurs were thus again excited, and the miniſters again diſmiſſed. After this the cabinet conſented to the wiſhes of the people, and the Marquis of Rockingham, with his Aſſociates became miniſters, but the principles of the Marquis and his colleagues were too firm to give way to the temptations of the cabinet, and for the preſervation of the very being of the latter, it became neceſſary to diſmiſs rivals thus dangerous to their exiſtence.

After ſome difficulties in the formation of a new adminiſtration, the Earl of Chatham accepted the office of privy ſeal, with the power of modelling the whole of the miniſtry, the oſtenſible head of which was the Duke of Graſton, though the Earl of Chatham was known to be the director of councils. In this adminiſtration the Earl of Shelburne was appointed one of the principal ſecretaries of ſtate. The ſeals were held by a Nobleman whoſe name will be ever dear to Engliſhmen, and who will never be mentioned without praiſe, ſo long as the Britiſh conſtitution and our moſt eſſential liberties are thought worth preſerving. This nobleman, it is needleſs to obſerve was Lord Camden,

Venerabile nomen,
Gentibus et noſtræ multum quod proderat urbi.

The Earl of Northington was preſident of the privy council, and the command of the army was entruſted to the Marquis of Granby. Such was the nature of the times in which the Earl of Shelburne was called to take a part thus important on the ſtage of public affairs, and the executive power was never weilded by men who poſſeſſed more ability and independence. It was evidently the deſire of the court to eſtabliſh the principles of American taxation, as one branch of that arbitrary ſyſtem, the introduction of which into all parts of the executive government was now the aim of the cabinet, and it was one of the views of this faction in admitting the Earl of Chatham into the adminiſtration to ſink the popularity of himself and his party; whiſpers were therefore circulated that the Earl, together with Lord Shelburne, and other leaders, had made conceſſions in compliance with the leading views of the cabinet, as the purchaſe of their promotion. This intrigue was the ruin of the party. The Earl of Chatham had, with all his virtues, and the Earl of Shelburne is ſaid to have had the ſame foible, a weakneſs too often attached to great characters, a deſire of popularity beyond the moderation of his general temperament. They no ſooner found themſelves therefore deprived of the voice of the people, than, as if wanting what was eſſential to their ſupport, their ſpirits failed them, and they had ſcarcely exerciſed the firſt functions of their employment, when they reſolved to reſign in deſpair. Lord Shelburne gave in his reſignation a few days after that of the Earl of Chatham, who, from a conſciouſneſs of his increaſing infirmities, and his diſcovery of the intrigues of the double cabinet, was the firſt to reſign his employment. Such were the cauſes of the retirement of the Earl of Shelburne and his friends, and we ſhortly afterwards find him in honorable oppoſition to the meaſures of Government, in which he continued with equal conſtancy and vigour, preſerving a conſiſtency and uniformity of principle, highly creditable to his political character till his union with the Rockingham party in 1782. During this period he never failed reprobating, as well the principles, as the conduct of the American war. It is well known that this war was provoked by the double cabinet, from their obſtinacy in ſupport of their favorite principles, and by the *then* miniſter, Mr. Geo. Grenville, as opening a new ſource of revenue, and extending the ſphere of taxation. The Earl of Shelburne was equally prompt to detect and eloquent to expoſe theſe fallacies; we find him, therefore, during the whole courſe of this conteſt, ever dividing with oppoſition, and maintaining the ſame ſpirit and conſtancy of principle.

Upon the queſtion which involved the liberties of the ſubject, the name of this nobleman is always found a zealous advocate on the conſtitutional ſide. He ſtigmatized with the ſtrongeſt and moſt unqualified abhorrence, the deciſion of the Houſe of Commons, in the caſe of Mr. Wilkes; nor was he leſs tardy in the defence of a nobler and better cauſe: when the two houses of parliament aſſerted their right to puniſh in the caſe of ſome printers, by arbitrary fines and impriſonments, he opposed it with a zeal, which in the other caſes, we might be inclined to call intemperate; he maintained, that if the poſition for which they contended was once eſtabliſhed, it would be to confound every principle of equity and juſtice, by uſurping the diſtinct offices of accuſers, judge, and jury, in addition to depriving the objects of their perfecution of the deareſt privileges of Engliſhmen, the right of trial by their peers. He again exerted himſelf in reſiſting what he ſuppoſed in danger,

the liberties of the people, from the increaſing influence of the crown: he joined indeed in every public act of oppoſition: there can be no neceſſity, therefore, of following him through the detail. His name will be found on the journals of the houſe, always on the ſide which he eſteemed popular and patriotic.

On the appointment of Mr. Fullarton, who had been a ſecretary to Lord Stormont, to the rank of Lieut. Colonel in the army, and to the command of an intended new regiment; Lord Shelburne ſpoke in the Houſe of Lords on this tranſaction with ſome degree of contempt and aſperity, denominating the Colonel *a commis, a clerk*, &c. taken from the deſk. Colonel Fullarton, judging Lord Shelburne's obſervations as highly derogatory to his character, ſent his Lordſhip a challenge, and, as the Colonel was a member of the Houſe of Commons, his Lordſhip choſe to accept it, the conſequence of which was a duel fought between the parties, on the 22d of March 1780. Lord Frederick Cavendiſh was ſecond to the Earl of Shelburne, and Lord Balcarras to Colonel Fullarton. On Colonel Fullarton's ſecond fire, Lord Shelburne was wounded in the groin, when his Lordſhip was put into a hackney coach and carried home. Mr. Adair extracted the ball ſhortly after; and in the afternoon of the ſame day, Sir James Lowther complained of this duel in the Houſe of Commons, when ſome violent debates enſued. The public addreſſes of congratulation from the cities of London and Weſtminſter, from ſeveral of the county meetings, which happened about this time, and from the committees of aſſociation, to the Earl of Shelburne on his recovery, all held out the idea in the moſt forcible language, that his life had been endangered by the faithful and ſpirited diſcharge of his public duty, as a peer of parliament.

By the death of Lord Chatham, the Earl of Shelburne became placed at the head of his political connection, and was again called to the adminiſtration of public affairs in 1782. This party, inconſiderable in point of numbers, but pre-eminent in talents, eloquence, and popularity, united among other eminent perſonages, the Duke of Gafton, Earl Camden, Mr. Dunning, Colonel Barré, and Mr. Alderman Townſend; and in 1780, was reinforced by the powers of the preſent miniſter, who, to the hereditary influence of a great name, joined the promiſe of extraordinary talents. Lord North being compelled to retire, the long deſired union took place between the late rival parties of Rockingham and Shelburne, and an adminiſtration was formed which united the patriotiſm, virtue, and ability of theſe two powerful intereſts. The Earl of Shelburne accepted the foreign department, and the Marquis of Rockingham was placed at the head of the treaſury. During the ſhort period of their power, wherein the extenſive influence of many individuals of the party, the brilliant talents of others, and the public confidence ſhared by all, had encouraged hopes of being ſettled and permenant, many acts of a popular nature were paſſed, calculated to win the affections and ſecure the ſupport of the majority without the Houſe. But the political veſſel was wrecked on the fatal ſtrands of party diſſention. It would be tedious to dwell on events yet recent in the memory of all; the unexpected death of the Marquis of Rockingham was the ſignal of downfal to that party, which it had been the labour of his life to keep together, and which his courteouſneſs and conciliatory diſpoſition had for a little time effected. The animoſities which had all along burnt in ſilent ſecrecy, began now to blaze forth in public diſcontent. The Earl of Shelburne

for a time kept aloof, diſcontented with the intended arrangements in his party. To ſupply the lamented vacancy of the Marquis of Rockingham, it was propoſed to place the Duke of Portland at the head of the treaſury, whom a long chain of ſplendid and powerful connections, a ſteadfaſt adherence to whig principles, and an elevated rank, ſeemed to point out as beſt qualified for the leader.

Diſguſted with this arrangement, the Earl reſolved to provide for himſelf and his adherents. Having ſecured the confidence of the King, he was placed at the head of the treaſury, upon which Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke and a great majority of the late adminiſtration, indignantly reſigned their offices. The new adminiſtration were unjuſtly accuſed of an intention of continuing the American war, on the ground that they were willing to grant every thing the Americans demanded ſhort of independence, without the full and unconditional acknowledgment of which, it was well known peace could not be obtained. The acknowledgment of it, on the part of Great Britain, was therefore nothing more than admtting in words, what was poſſeſſed in fact, and about which, it would have been the very conſummation of national folly to have waſted more blood and treaſure. However this imputation was ſoon done away, by a peace with all the powers, with whom we were at war, and by the acknowledgment of American independence, which preceded the ſigning of the preliminary articles.

After the peace was concluded, and the treaty laid before the Houſe of Commons, ſuch a hoſt of foes had been formed againſt the miniſter, that the treaty met with the diſapprobation of the Houſe. His Lordſhip had, however, the merit of relieving his country from a diſtreſſing and unſucceſsful war. The adminiſtration was not of long duration; it ſcarcely continued ten months when its ranks were broken, and its members put to flight, by a monſter in the region of politics. This monſter was the coalition, which was victorious for its day, and the party compoſing it had the ſatisfaction of beholding in their late apoſtate, a head of oppoſition, from whoſe talents they had little to dread, his popularity was daily on the increaſe. We ſhall paſs rapidly over theſe events; the India bill was the firſt blow to their power, which was terminated by a diſſolution of Parliament, and a declaration of their conſtituents againſt them.

It was now expected that the Earl of Shelburne would have reſumed the management of affairs but "*bis aliter visum,*" Mr. Pit then only twenty four years of age, was declared Chancellor of the Exchequer, and firſt Lord of the Treaſury. Many reaſons have been given for the circumſtance of Lord Shelburne being excluded from the new adminiſtration. It was imputed at the time, perhaps unjuſtly, to ſome artifice of his ſucceſſor; but it probably aroſe from that pride and loftineſs of ſpirit, the leading features in the character of this nobleman, which made him diſdain to lend his aſſiſtance to a party which he thought too weak to preſerve long their authority, and which he moreover, conceived to act, in a great meaſure againſt the ſenſe and wiſhes of the people. The diſcordant parts, of which the new adminiſtration was compoſed, equally monſtrous and heterogeneous, as that formed by the coalition, ſeemed to point the proſpect of their ſpeedy fall, attacked on all ſides by the vigorous and ſterling talents of their opponents, with whom they were, apparently, unable to maintain a conteſt. The event, however, was contrary to expectation: his Lordſhip ſoon perceived the full eſtabliſhment of their power, which for ſome time, he had reſolved not to harraſs by oppoſition.

He was now created Marquis of Lanſdown, and Earl of Wycombe, and was alſo elected Knight of the Garter. From this time he dropped the buſy character of a politician, and repoſed from all political care and animoſities in the ſecurity of a private life. This tranquillity was almoſt uninterrupted, until the events of the French revolution rouſed him from the torpor of inactivity, and introduced him again upon the ſtage. He contended againſt the juſtice and neceſſity of the war, in marked oppoſition to the meaſures of the miniſter, but nowiſe concurring with thoſe of Mr. Fox. The agreement of their political ſentiments being but partial, no connection was ever attempted.

With foreign politics and foreign courts, it may with the ſtricteſt truth be affirmed, that no ſtateſman in Europe was better acquainted. Prince Henry of Pruſſia, Choiſeuil, Hertzberg, Bernſtoff, Kaunitz, and their confidants, were his correſpondents. In every cabinet on the continent, and in every German chancery he had a friendly agent. This extenſive, minute, and correct information, added to the ſtrength of his own judgment, ſagacity, and penetration, procured for him the character and reputation of being one of the firſt ſtateſmen in Europe. He had deeply ſtudied the hiſtory and laws of his country, and they had taught him, that the conſtitution of England was an inheritance obtained by the virtue, wiſdom, and true patriotiſm of Engliſhmen. His ſpeeches in Parliament were copious in information, and always contained ſome ſentence, ſome felicity of illuſtration, that carried the hearer along with him, and at once delighted the fancy and convinced the judgment. It is ſaid that his lordſhip intended, had he lived, to publiſh ſome volumes of his correſpondence, and ſome original ſtatements, relative to events in which he had been a party, particularly the ſecret hiſtory of the peace of 1783.

We will here cloſe the public character of the Marquis, and ſurvey him in domeſtic life.

A liberal encouragement of the arts is not in general a characteriſtic of the Engliſh nobility; their diſpoſitions, it muſt be confeſſed, too often lead them to other purſuits, of a nature more groſs and inelegant; yet this imputation is not general, and the Marquis of Lansdown was an illuſtrious exception. He was ſtrongly attached to the ſtudy of architecture, and had employed and collected around him, without regard to expence, the moſt conſpicuous and eminent in this art. His houſe in Berkley ſquare is eſteemed the moſt elegant and ſumptuous in Great Britain. All the ceilings are painted by Cipriani, from the antiquities found in Herculaneum, and the decorations are by the greateſt maſters. The furniture alone is eſtimated to be worth one hundred thouſand pounds.

He was a no leſs induſtrious collector of paintings, and had the credit of poſſeſſing a library, which is ſuperior to that of any individual in the kingdom. The room in which it is contained is one hundred and ten feet in length, and ornamented with the moſt valuable Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman ſtatues.

The collection of books is worthy of this magnificent apartment, and honorable to the taſte of the late marquis: it conſiſts of about fifteen thouſand volumes of the moſt valuable books in all languages, which are arranged in a claſſical and ſcientific manner. It is moſt complete, and perhaps unique in the extent of its political collection, and as containing every work which has been publiſhed in France and England on the ſubject of the French revolution. The marquis was not only a magnificent patron of the arts, but generous

and liberal to excefs in protecting and rewarding men of eminence in literature. The Doctors Price and Prieftley, he favoured with his kindeft attention, the latter of whom lived with him fome years. He had the credit of having dedicated to him Rofcoe's Hiftory of Lorenzo de Medici, and the author expreffed his many obligations to his kindnefs in a ftyle of elegant and honorable eulogium. His Lordfhip had alfo dedicated to him fome other literary works of lefs importance.

His Lordfhip's titles were, Marquis of Lanfdown, Earl of Wycombe, Vifcount Calne and Calneftone, and Baron Wycombe, (Engliſh honours;) Earl of Shelburne, Vifcount Fitzmaurice, and Baron Dunkeron, (Iriſh honours.) He was alfo Knight of the Garter, and a General in the army.

His death took place at his houfe in Berkley fquare, on the 7th of May, 1805. He had been twice married; firft, at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on the 3d of February, 1765, to Lady Sophia Carteret, daughter of the late Earl of Granville, who being an heirefs, he came poffeffed of the Granville eftates, particularly of that beautiful place, called Lanfdown-hill, at Bath, from which he took his principal title. By this lady, who died in 1771, he had a fon, John, now Marquis of Lanfdown, &c. born Dec. 6th 1765. His Lordfhip married fecondly, Lady Louifa Fitzpatrick, fifter to the Earl of Upper Offory, by whom he had another fon, the preſent Lord John Henry Petty, Member for Calne, born July 1790. He had alfo a daughter who died an infant. His fecond lady died Auguft 7th, 1789.

ADVERSARIA:

Literary, Philoſophical, and Miſcellaneous.

LITERARA.

DR. Young's Courfe of Lectures on Natural Philofophy and the Mechanical Arts, delivered two years ago, in the theatre of the Royal Inftitution, is now printing with conſiderable additions and improvements. The work will conſiſt of two volumes 4to, the firft containing the text of the lectures, nearly as they were delivered, but with ſuch alterations as are calculated to make them ſtill more intelligible to the moſt uninformed readers. The lectures are followed by a copious ſeries of plates, illuſtrative of every ſubject to which they relate. The ſecond volume contains, in the firſt place, the mathematical elements of natural philofophy, deduced from firſt principles, and in many inſtances extended by new inveſtigations; ſecondly, a methodical catalogue of works relative to natural philoſophy, with about ten thouſand references to the particular papers and paſſages; and a number of uſeful tables, and of conciſe abſtracts and remarks; and laſtly, a collection of the author's miſcellaneous papers reprinted, with ſome alterations, principally from the Philoſophical Tranſactions. The work is expected to be completed early in the next winter.

Mr. Gregory, of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, has in the preſs a general treatiſe on mechanics, intended to be compriſed in two volumes 8vo. The firſt volume is intended to be principally occupied with the theory of Statics, Dynamics, Hydroſtatics, Hydrodynamics, and Pneumatics;

the ſecond will be appropriated chiefly to practical and deſcriptive ſubjects, and will commence with ſeveral practical remarks on the nature, conſtruction, and ſimplification of mechanical contrivances; the effects of friction, the rigidity of cords, the energy of different powers, of motion, &c. Theſe will be followed by deſcriptions of about one hundred of the moſt curious, uſeful, and important machines.

Mr. John Maſon Good will ſhortly publiſh a Poem, entitled, "The Nature of Things," tranſlated from the Latin of Titus Lucretius Carus, with notes philological and explanatory; and Mr. Wakefield's corrected text of the original, reprinted by permiſſion.

An intereſting volume in 4to. under the title of Latium, or the Country about Rome, illuſtrated with twenty plates, may ſhortly be expected to make its appearance.

Dr. James Wilſon, of Falkirk, has in the preſs, in two volumes 8vo. a Hiſtory of Egypt, ancient and modern.

The third and fourth volumes of Mrs. Weſt's Poems and Plays have juſt made their appearance.

Mr. George Ellis has a work in the preſs, entitled, Specimens of early Engliſh Romances.

Dr. Edward Goodman Clarke, author of Medicinæ Praxeos Compendium, has in the preſs a new work on the Practice of Phyſic.

The author of the "Tour in Zealand, and the Hiſtorical Sketch of the Battle of Copenhagen," has juſt publiſhed a ſmall volume of tales, under the title of Mental Recreations. He has alſo a ſecond edition of his Tour in the preſs, and which will appear in about a fortnight.

The author of the Revolutionary Plutarch has juſt publiſhed Memoirs of Charles Maurice Talleyrand de Perigord, one of Bonaparte's principal ſecretaries of ſtate, containing the particulars of his private and public life, his intrigues, &c.

The third volume of the Hiſtory of Cornwall is now ready to be delivered to the ſubſcribers. This volume completes the work as originally projected; but a fourth, containing the civil and military hiſtory of Cornwall from Edward I. to the preſent time, is intended to be preſented gratis to the ſubſcribers.

A new edition of the works of Spencer, with notes of various commentators, and with additional illuſtrations, a gloſſarial index, and an account of his life, by the Rev. Mr. Todd, may be ſhortly expected.

The remainder of the firſt volume of the hiſtory of Devonſhire is in the courſe of delivery to ſubſcribers. The third volume of the above work is in the preſs.

The third volume of Sir John Froiſſart's Chronicle is ready for delivery, and the fourth is in a ſtate of great forwardneſs. An 8vo. edition of this work is in preparation, and part of it may be expected this ſummer.

A periodical work has lately been commenced under the title of A Review of the Reports made by the Naval Commiſſioners: and other important political affairs. It is continued weekly.

Mr. Colman's celebrated comedy of John Bull will ſoon be ready for publication.

An extenſive dictionary of commerce has juſt made its appearance, at Paris.

Mr. Leſlie has circulated propoſals, for publiſhing by ſubſcription, A Dictionary of the Synonymous Words and Technical Terms in the Engliſh Language; it will be publiſhed at Edinburgh.

An Inſtitution ſimilar to that projecting in the City, which we mentioned in our laſt number, is intended to be eſtabliſhed in the metropolis, at an equi-diſtance between that at the weſt end of the town and that mentioned above. Its title is to be "The General Inſtitution for promoting a knowledge of

Literature and the Sciences, with their application to the uſeful and ornamental Arts." The projector of the plan of this Inſtitution which is now in circulation appears to be wholly incompetent to comprehend and embrace the different branches which ſuch an eſtabliſhment muſt be the means of bringing into one focus. The price of a ſhare is propoſed to be ten pounds, and an annual ſubſcription two pounds. There are alſo to be honorary members; "Any individual, by pecuniary donation, may be elected an honorary member." What! is the meed of ſcience, is the reward of talent, to be purchaſed by a few paltry pounds? Shall men of extenſive knowledge, of unwearied application, who have laboured in the republic of letters, who have toiled in the fields of ſcience, ſhall they be aſſociated with pecuniary purchaſers of literary and ſcientific honours? The General Inſtitution appears in the firſt outſet, to bear the character of one of the abortions of ſcience, and from all the perſons appointed to receive ſubſcriber's names, being bookſellers, a ſtranger will be led to ſuppoſe that it comes from the manufactory of ſome of the modern CURLS, in order to puff thoſe of their publications which are forgotten nearly as ſoon as publiſhed, into notice and celebrity.

BOTANY.—Mr. W. Hooker, a pupil of Mr Bauer, Botanic Painter to his Majeſty, has commenced the publication of a work, to be continued monthly, under the title of Paradiſus Londinenſis; containing coloured figures of new and rare plants cultivated in the vicinity of London. Each number will contain three coloured figures, always drawn from nature, engraved and coloured in the beſt manner, with proper deſcriptions of the plants repreſented.

MEDICINE.—The ſecond volume of Bell's Surgery, containing the operations of ſurgery, embelliſhed with numerous engravings, may be expected ſoon to make its appearance.

A new volume of the Tranſactions of the London Medical Society is announced as ready for publication. Thoſe who have ſeen the firſt and ſecond volumes of theſe tranſactions, will rejoice at the publication of the preſent; and we hope, that amongſt others, we ſhall find ſome communications of that reſpectable medical teacher, the late Dr. Fordyce.

PHILOSOPHICAL.

The Repertory of Arts, &c. No. 37, contains ſpecifications of the following patents, viz.

Of Mr. William Bell's, for an improved method of manufacturing blanks or moulds for knife, razor, and ſciſſar blades, and various other edge-tools, and of forks, files, and nails, with a plate.—Patent dated March 9, 1805.

Of Mr. John Lewis's, for a method of preventing accidents by horſes or other animals drawing carriages, with a plate.—Patent dated Feb. 27, 1802.

Of Mr. Joſhua Jowett's, for a fire-guard ſtove, whereby accidents from fire in houſes and other places, that have heretofore been occaſioned by grates and ſtoves, made on any other conſtruction, are effectually prevented.—Patent dated May 18, 1804.

Of Mr. Huddart's, for a method for manufacturing and ſpinning yarn, different from any now in uſe.—Patent dated Sept. 21, 1804.

Patents enrolled in April, 1805.

To Richard Jubb, for an improvement in making and tuning the pedal harp, by which the half quarter note is produced thereon with peculiar ſweetneſs, and a farther addition of an harmonic ſtop made thereto; and alſo certain improvements in tuning the violin and other ſtringed inſtruments.

To B. R. Dodd, for various improvements in the conſtruction of

fire-places, and adapting ſtoves and grates thereto.

To Joſeph Bramah, for ſundry improvements in the art of making paper.

To Thomas Rowntree, for an axle-tree and box for carriages, on an improved plan.

To Charles Hobſon and Charles Silveſter, for a method of manufacturing the metal called zinc into wire, and into veſſels and utenſils for culinary and other purpoſes.

MISCELLANIES.

A board of health has lately been eſtabliſhed for the purpoſe of preparing and digeſting rules and regulations for the moſt ſpeedy and effectual modes of guarding againſt the introduction and ſpreading of infection; and for purifying any ſhip or houſe in caſe any contagious diſorder ſhould unhappily manifeſt itſelf in any part of the United Kingdom, notwithſtanding the precautions taken to guard againſt the introduction thereof; and to communicate the ſame to all magiſtrates, medical perſons, and others who may be deſirous, and may apply to be made acquainted therewith. This board is to hold its meetings at Somerſet-place, and is compoſed of the following perſons; Sir Andrew Snape Hammond, Sir Lucas Pepys, Dr. Reynolds, Sir Francis Milman, Dr. Hunter, Dr. Heberden, Sir Alexander Munro, and Dr. Harneſs.

Dr. Adams, late of Madeira, has been elected phyſician to the Small-pox hoſpital, in the room of the late Dr. Woodville.

Divinity. Dr. Macknight, author of a Harmony of the Goſpels, will ſhortly publiſh a new edition in 6 vols. 8vo. of a Literal Tranſlation from the Greek, of all the Apoſtolical Epiſtles, with a commentary, and notes, philological, critical, explanatory, and practical.

Dr. Munkhouſe, of Queen's College, Oxford, has in the preſs, in 3 vols. 8vo. Occaſional Diſcourſes on various Subjects, embelliſhed with a portrait of the author.

Music. Mr. Louis Janſon has commenced the publication of a work to be continued monthly, entitled Devotional Harmony. The words are ſelected from the various pſalms, and hymns in common uſe; and the muſic from the moſt eminent compoſers, ancient and modern, with many new pieces compoſed on purpoſe for the work. The author propoſes that no new tune be inſerted, which will not ſtand the teſt of muſical criticiſm.

THE FINE ARTS.

The Editor flatters himſelf that this Article will be found of that Importance to the Profeſſors and Amateurs of the Fine Arts, as to induce them to make the Monthly Epitome the principal medium for communicating to the Public, a complete Account of the various New Works in Sculpture, Painting, Engraving, &c. ſo that it may become a complete Repoſitory of Intelligence in that elegant Department.

AN eſtabliſhment for the promotion of the Fine Arts in the United Kingdom, under the name of *The British Inſtitution*, has juſt received the ſanction of his Majeſty. It is not intended that this Inſtitution ſhall at all interfere with the Royal Academy, but that it ſhall be the means of bringing genius into ſuch a prominent view, either by the exhibition of thoſe works of taſte or art produced by men of talents, or by ſuch other mode as will beſt conduce to the promotion of their deſign. The

Earl of Dartmouth is Preſident, and Thomas Bernard, Eſq. Secretary to the Britiſh Inſtitution, which we are proud to find is ſupported by a numerous and powerful body of men of acknowledged taſte and diſtinguiſhed rank.

In the Houſe of Commons, on the 5th of June, the Maſter of the Rolls preſented a petition from the truſtees of the Britiſh Muſeum, praying the aid of parliament to enable them to purchaſe the collection of ancient ſculpture left by the late Mr. Townley, of Park-ſtreet. The petition ſtated the price of the collection to be purchaſed at 20,000l. and a committee was appointed to conſider of the ſame and to make their report to the Houſe. It is proper to obſerve, that this collection is ſuperior to any other in this country, and even to any private one (four or five excepted) in Rome itſelf, the capital of the liberal arts. In our laſt number but one and in the preſent number, we preſent our readers with a catalogue of this invaluable collection of ancient ſculpture, now about to be added to our national muſeum.

Mr. Turner, whoſe performances in mezzotinto engraving ſo rapidly advance towards excellence, has lately publiſhed a beautiful print of the Beggars, after a painting, by Owen, which bore a conſpicuous figure in a late exhibition. We have heard it contended that this plate of Mr. Turner's abſolutely places him at the head of the profeſſion, and that it is the fineſt ever publiſhed.

Mr. J. R. Smith has juſt publiſhed a mezzotinto print of Tho. Athawes, Eſq. which is a moſt reſpectable performance. We have never ſeen the gentleman in queſtion, but we venture to affirm, from conſidering the harmony and nature diſplayed in this print, that it is a ſtriking and correct likeneſs.

Mr. Fuſeli has juſt publiſhed a new edition of Pilkington's Dictionary of Painters, which contains conſiderable alterations, additions, an appendix and an index. This edition of this much admired work differs from the former one, in occaſionally ſubſtituting a new article for an old one; in annexing notes to thoſe which remain unaltered, and epitomizing others. Mr. Fuſeli's chief view has been to eſtabliſh the real character of each artiſt's ſtyle, to diſcriminate its different periods and followers, to fix praiſe and cenſure on its proper object, and, as he properly adds, to relieve the reader's patience.

A few impreſſions of the print of the late Mr. Gilpin, of Boldre, which was engraved from an original portrait, by Clint, and which we announced as having become private property, may now be had at the reſpectable printſellers.

Dr. Thornton has opened a Linnæan gallery, or botanical exhibition of pictures. The Doctor, it will be recollected, is the author of that ſplendid work, the Illuſtration of the Sexual Syſtem of Linnæus.

Mr. Fowler, of Winterton, near Brigg, Lincolnſhire, has lately publiſhed by ſubſcription, under the patronage of the Earl of Carliſle, two engravings from beautiful paintings in ancient ſtained glaſs, in a window of the chapel at Caſtle Howard, in the county of York. The one repreſenting the death of St. Catherine, the other the death of St. John the Baptiſt.

At the ſale of the Shakeſpeare gallery, Bolingbroke's entry into London, by Northcote, fetched 180 guineas; Weſt's Ophelia, 150 guineas; and Smirke's ſeven cabinet pictures of the Seven Ages, 240 guineas. The leaſe of the premiſes 4000 guineas.

The ſociety of painters in water colours, who diſplayed ſuch a reſpectable exhibition in Lower Brook-ſtreet, have ſignified their intention of rendering it an annual exhibition of their performances.

CORRECT LIST OF PUBLICATIONS IN JUNE.

As the List of Books, given in the MONTHLY EPITOME, *is the MOST COMPLETE OF ANY PUBLISHED, and that of Prints, Maps, Charts, and Music, the ONLY ONE OF THE KIND printed in any Periodical Publication, the Editor requests that Authors, Publishers, and Artists will continue to transmit the Titles of their Works, post-paid; and respectfully informs them, that they shall always meet with a ready Insertion, and WITHOUT ANY EXPENCE.*

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THE fourth Volume of Communications to the Board of Agriculture, on Subjects relative to the Husbandry, and the internal Improvement of the Country. 18s. boards.—Nicols.

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An Introduction to the fourth Volume of Munimenta Antiqua. By M. P. King, Esq. F. R. S. and A. S. 5s. Nicols.

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Plantarum Guianæ rariorum Icones et Descriptiones hactenus Ineditæ: Autore Edvardo Rudge. Soc Reg. Lond. et Linn. Soc. Lond. Socio. Fasciculus I. 15s. White.

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OBITUARY.

NOVEMBER 9. 1804.—In the neighbourhood of Haſſungabad, in the Eaſt Indies, aged 39, Joſiah Webbe, Eſq. Preſident at the Court of Dowlut Row Scindia. His eminent talents raiſed him, at an early period, to public attention; and during ſeveral years, he filled the important ſituation of Chief Secretary to the Governor of Fort St. George, with a reputation equal to the tranſcendant merits of his character; fitted by the vigour and elevation of his mind, by unwearied application, and by unſullied honour for every ſphere of action. The conſpicuous part which he ſuſtained, at an arduous and important æra of the Britiſh affairs of this Preſidency, will rank him as a benefactor of his country; whilſt his private accompliſhments and worth, in endearing his memory, will make his loſs be felt, and lamented alike, by the ſcholar, the ſtateſman, and his friends. Mr. W. was ſelected by the Governor-General for the diſtinguiſhed ſtation which he occupied at his death, and which he filled with unceaſing attention and perſeverance.

MAY 21.—Mr. James Parker, an eminent Portrait and Hiſtorical Engraver, whoſe talents have for many years been ſucceſsfully employed in ornamenting the beſt editions of the Engliſh Claſſics, and other works of taſte, which he rendered more valuable by the fineſt productions of his art. The Society of Engravers, of which he was a governor, attended him to the grave. By his zeal and indefatigable endeavours, he contributed much to their formation into a ſociety, for the beſt purpoſes of humanity; and his meritorious exertions will long be remembered by the fatherleſs and the widows of thoſe of his profeſſion who may be left in neceſſitous circumſtances. His remains were interred in the burial ground of St. Clement Danes.

25.—At Sunderland, aged 62, Wm. Paley, LL. D. Archdeacon of Carliſle, Subdean of Lincoln, and Rector of Biſhop Wearmouth.—An account of this learned prelate will be given in our next.

30.—At his houſe in Piccadilly, in conſequence of a ſurgical operation terminating in mortification, Sir Wm. Pulteney, Bart. Repreſentative in Parliament for Shrewſbury. No man was better acquainted with the Engliſh conſtitution, and by the conduct of no one was it better ſupported.—Sir William poſſeſſed a ſound underſtanding, and a good knowledge of financial affairs: his opinion was always received in the Houſe of Commons with reſpectful attention; and though he was not a flowery orator, yet he always expreſſed himſelf with clearneſs and preciſion. In private life his habits were ſtrickingly frugal, which were perhaps rendered more obvious by the reputation of great wealth. Sir William married within theſe few years, but has left no iſſue.

At Copenhagen.—M. Vahl, a diſciple of Linnæus, and celebrated in the literary world by his great knowledge in natural hiſtory, particularly in botany. The continuation of the *Flora Danica* was confided to him by his government, after the death of Oeder; and it has occupied the principal part of his time and attention during the latter years of his life.—Botaniſts had promiſed themſelves an abundant harveſt from the journeys which he made into Norway, at the expence of government; as it is well known that that country contains many diſtricts little known. His funeral was conducted with much ſolemnity, and was attended by the principal part of the literati of Copenhagen.

M. Riègel, Hiſtoriographer Royal to his Daniſh Majeſty. He has left the following epitaph for himſelf:—

Hic jacet ſtultus ille Riegels,
Qui falſo credidit propugnavitque,
Veritatém eſſe ſummam bonorum;
Quare illum dum virit,
Corrodebant optimates,
Spreverunt horum adulatores
Flocci pendebant cleri,
Inutiles ipſius labores ubique patent.

Lately, M. Baden, Profeſſor of Eloquence and of the Latin Language at the Univerſity of Copenhagen. He began his connection with that inſtitution in 1779: his labours were not confined to the pupils of the National College alone, he devoted a great portion of his time to the advancing of the Daniſh language to its higheſt pitch of improvement; and his tranſlations rival the original for preciſion, taſte, and purity of diction. He alſo publiſhed a German and Daniſh Dictionary, known to every modern Linguiſt. In the latter years of his life, he found himſelf inadequate to the active duties of his public ſituation; and retired, but not without an honourable proof of the approbation of the Daniſh government.

At Gottingen—J. F. Gmelin. He was born at Tubingen, in 1748, and was the author of many works on vegetable, phyſiology, and the claſſification of plants. He wrote ſeveral treatiſes on the materia medica, chemiſtry, mineralogy, and all parts of natural hiſtory; a liſt of which may be found in the Journal of Meuſel (Das Gelehrte Deutſchland). One of his moſt celebrated works is his edition of the Syſtema Naturæ of Linnæus; but he is charged with introducing a great deal of confuſion into the ſcience, by multiplying the ſpecies. M. Gmelin was alſo the author of a Hiſtory of Chymiſtry, making a part of a hiſtory of ſciences and arts, undertaken by the Profeſſors of Gottingen: he was alſo the diſcoverer of ſeveral valuable dyes extracted from vegetables and minerals. As a man, his character was unblemiſhed, mild, modeſt, and laborious; and in domeſtic life he was all that could be deſired.

ERRATA.—Page 292, line 5, from bottom, *for* The chapter commences on ſight, *read* The fifth chapter is on *Sight*, the which, &c.
Ibid—Line 11, column 2d, *for* uniſon, *read* viſion.
Ibid—Line 12, *for* imitation, *read* irritation.
Ibid—Line 41, *for* confined, *read* confuſed.
Page 293, line 19, column 2d, *for* "which is on the knowledge of improved perception," *read* on Knowledge or Improved Perception.
Page 294, line 7, column 1ſt, *for* quickly on the mind, *read* quickly on in the mind.
Ibid—Line 19, *for* ſettled, *read* ſeated.

TO CORRESPONDENTS,—*The favours of Philotechnes, S. de H. and Clericus, are received: we ſhall be glad to hear from them as often as convenient.—A. B. is under conſideration, as alſo A. O. and M. D.—Q. U. I. T. does not ſuit our Plan.—Communications for this Work are requeſted to be addreſſed to the "Editor of the* MONTHLY EPITOME *and* LITERARY MAGAZINE," *at Mr. Walker's, No. 44, Paternoſter-row, or to Mr. Clarke, No. 38, New Bond-ſtreet, before the 18th of each Month, if intended for Inſertion in the ſucceeding Numbers.—Papers on Literary or Scientific Subjects will be preferred to thoſe of a more general Nature.*